The Long Island FISHERMAN

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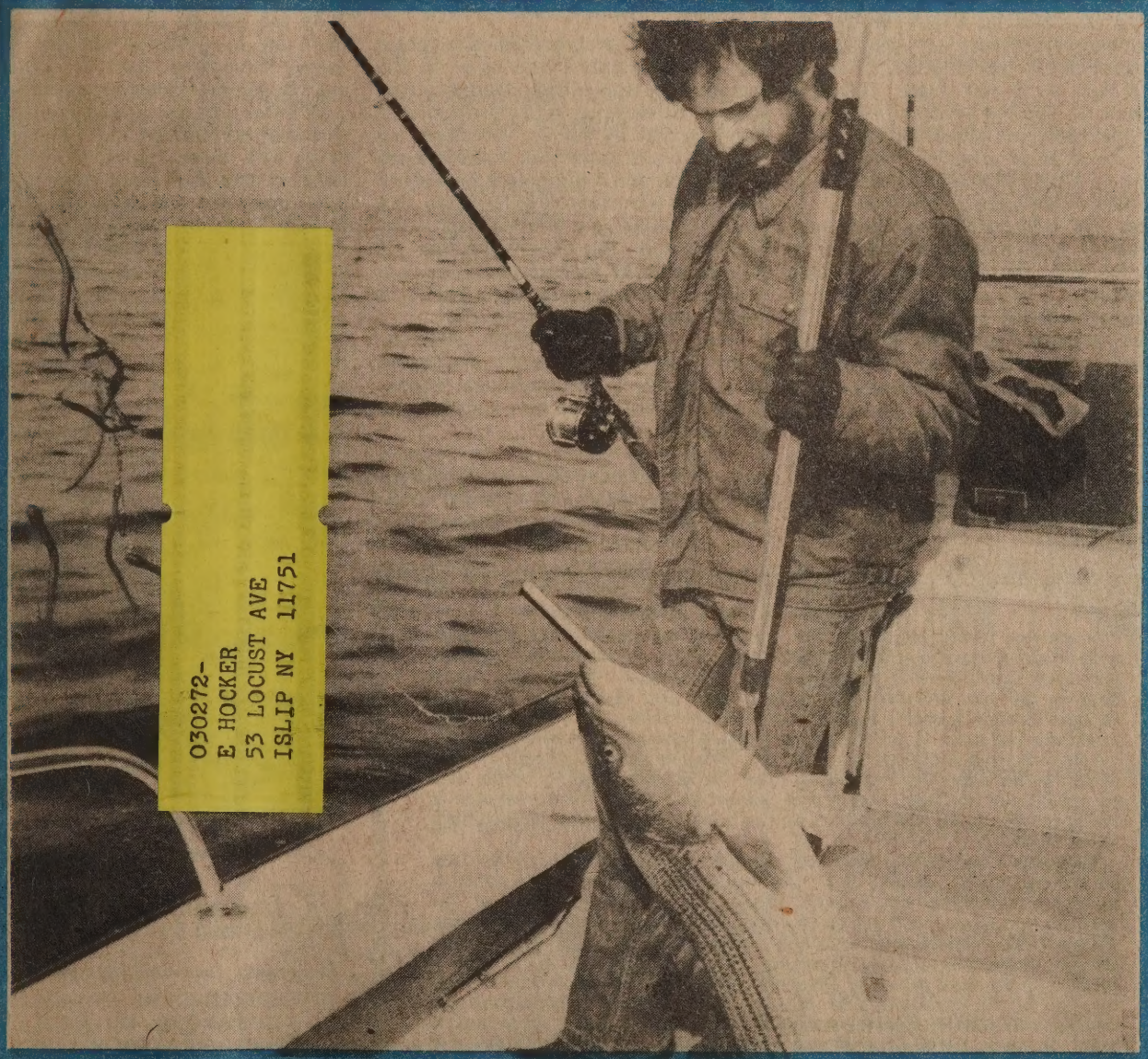
The Difference Between Just Fishing . . and Catching Fish!

APRIL 1st, 1976, ISSUE No. 11



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STRIPED BASS SPECIAL

CLUB NEWS

562 FISHING CLUB

The 562 Fishing Club will hold their 24th Annual Beer Party and Dance at the 30th A.D. Democratic Club at 56-05 69th Street, New York on Saturday, April 3rd, 1976. The time is 9:00 P.M. and admission is $8 per person. The party includes a cold buffet, all the beer you can drink, music and a bottle of rye or scotch for every table.

Admission at the door or by reservation. Anyone interested in attending may call (212) 847-5880 for details.

The Club also has a few openings for new members. We meet every fourth Tuesday of the month at 8:00 P.M. at PJ's Pub, 77-15 79th Place, Glendale, New York. Anyone interested may call (212) 847-5880 for further details.

SALTY FLYRODDERS OF NEW YORK

Mr Fred Mott, well known metereologist for marine science services of Bendix eng. corp. will give a very interesting program on the effects of weather on fishing condition.

Mr. Mott is a graduate of the State University Maritime College, and has done a lot of research on the subject. He should provide a very interesting evening.

The program will be given at the monthly meeting of the Salty Flyrodders of New York to be held on April 5th in the lower hall of the Grace Lutheran Church 31-20 21st Avenue, Astoria, New York at 8:00 P.M.

Our regular Fly Tying Corner will start off the meeting which is open to the public. Cake and coffee will be served as usual.

ANGLERS TELL THE TRUTH EVEN IT IT HURTS

The Squadron Anglers of Seaford, as its award-installation dinner showed this weekend (March 13th) tell the truth even if it hurts.

Putting a fresh twist on the ancient fishing story about "you should have seen the one that got away", the Anglers started a new tradition in such stories when their program, in effect, said "you should have seen the one that got caught."

The award program listed trophies for such outstanding catches as an 800 pound tuna, tagged and released by Dan Erb of Massapequa; a 52 pound striped bass landed by Mickey Goldstone of Bellmore, a 51 pound cod by Ed Meyers of Seaford, and a 312 pound blue shark caught by Mort Shapiro of Brooklyn. But the truth willed out when a trophy was awarded to Big Tom Avellino of Massapequa for the only catch during a club tournament—a monster bonito of nine ounces, repeat, nine ounces!

Wayne Hutnick of East Setauket, tournament chairman, said: "We goofed in giving Big Tom a traditional trophy; we should have given him a microscope to measure the fish!"

Installed as officers for the coming year besides Hutnick, were President Hugh Diamond of Massapequa; Treasurer Bob Mizrahi of Merrick; Vice President Joe Soka of Massapequa Park; Vice President for education Bill Sorge of Bellmore and Secretary Harry Blair of Seaford.

NEW AUTHORS FOR THE FISHERMAN

We are very pleased to inform our readers of the addition of three more well-known writers to our staff. In the near future, renowned striped bass specialist Capt. Ronnie Lepper of the charterboat "Kim" will begin sharing his vast knowledge of striped bass and bluefishing with our readers through a weekly question and answer column. So if you have any questions you want to ask the skipper, don't hesitate to send it in. Don't be shy—Ronnie promises to reveal all. Another weekly column will be added to our pages next month to cover the offshore fishing scene. The columnist will be Capt. Archie Jost, expert blue water fisherman who is noted for the many tournaments he has won and big game fishing from small boats.

1975 was "The Year of the Frech", known as such because of the coup we accomplished in getting Jack "the Professor" Frech to write a series of articles on making home-made plugs and revealing many of his surfcasting secrets. 1976 will go down as "The Year of DeMaio". Starting in this issue, the famous Montauk striped bass specialist Capt. John DeMaio of the charterboat "Vivienne" will be writing a series of feature articles on the finer points of advanced bass fishing. Schooled by the old masters of the backwaters of Jamaica Bay, John has been a regular hook-and-line commercial fisherman at Montauk who is well respected by other regulars, particularly for his expertise with casting bucktails and working a diamond jig in the rips. He knows whereof he speaks—in 1974 and 1975, John put over 34,000 lbs. of striped bass in the box. So read his articles carefully, and learn what bass fishing is all about from a pro.

Scott Simons

SALT WATER AQUARIUMS

Though not a subscriber (yet), I haven't missed an issue of L.I.F. in a couple of years. I love to read it, and it helps kill time until spring when I can resume my sport in an almost daily manner.

I'll fish in rain, snow, freezing temperatures, even with a large accumulation of ice on my guides. I'll be out there herring, whiting, cod fishing etc. with the rest of the nuts, but when my sinker bounces on the surface it's time to quit (for a time.)

As you pointed out in many issues, there are many things one can do in these "fishingless" days. But there is one you missed. "Home Aquariums."

Whether it be salt or tropical, there is a lot to be learned from it. It's almost like living with them. You become accustomed to their fluent and more aggressive movements and even more important, their feeding habits. These days it is possible to keep almost any fish in an aquarium; even a striper if you care for his needs!

I've never tried yet, but I have kept others, in fact, a few years ago I captured some young eels. They grew and grew but never spawned. I did, however, siene some pipe fish, from Bannister Creek and they did give birth to about what seemed like a million little hairs (young pipe fish).

Being an angler first, I'm more interested in how they strike; at what colors, what type of jig, what a bucktail looks like under water, etc.

I just recently purchased a 125 gallon tank for just this purpose. I can work many miniature lures, or experiment with different colored clam strips, etc. It's really something else to see a large arawana or oscar take a hookless bucktail.

So consider it! It seems far out but even with a much smaller tank, the possibilities are endless. *Joseph Vetrano Deep Six Fishing Club.*

Chum Lines

FISHERMAN SEEKS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT LONG ISLAND'S ECOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

I am a college student and am writing a term paper on the problem and progress being made on the 200 Mile Limit and also on the environmental dangers and protection of fish on the Long Island waters. If you have any

The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

VOLUME 11, No. 11 April 1st, 1976

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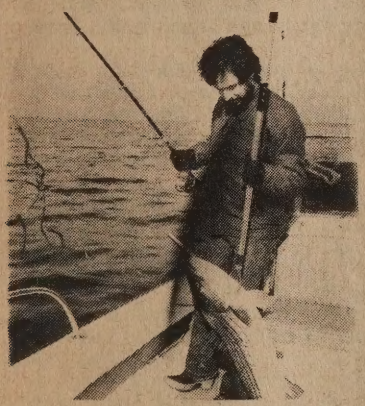

ABOUT THE COVER: Pete Barrett of The Fisherman puts the gaff to a big bass taken on an umbrella rig last fall. The striped bass should begin moving out of the rivers any day now to start the spring run, so this issue of LIF will concentrate on fishing for spring stripers.

PUBLISHER Rich Reina

MANAGING EDITOR Scott Simons

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Dr. William A. Muller

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER Mike Zarrella

ADVERTISING MANAGER Stu Miller

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literary information such as articles from your magazine, newspapers articles, etc. please sent them to me because I want to make this report successful and need the views of many different authors. If you can not do this please give me any addresses to where I can write for this type of info. **Manuel Lorggo.**

We frequently get inquiries about where to find out more about things like water quality, 200-Mile Limit, shellfish management, fish populations.

We have published a series that began in May 1974 and continues today entitled Long Island's Marine Ecology which attempts to discuss these things for fishermen. We also publish frequent editorials on various ecological concerns when they are topical. Also check newspapers and magazines.

However, for detailed information we suggest that you contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at Stony Brook. (516) 751-7900.

For striper detailed information go to a good library (college, museum, or NYS Public Library) and look for your topic in Biological Abstracts. When you find revelent papers the "Abstracts" will direct you to the correct issue of the correct journal. Dr. Wm. A. Muller.

ANSWER TO SHORT FLUKE COMPLAINT

In your March 18 issue, under Chum Lines, Tony Sandles queried what the readers thought of his letter. My answer is simple. Tony, if you're a meat fisherman under 12 inches long sounds reasonable; if you're a sportfisherman are inches that important? **George Gerhold, Island Park.**

HOW TO SELECT A GOOD SPINNING REEL

I enjoy reading LIF very much. So does my wife. We have a question we'd like answered. We've seen some reels we'd like to buy but we aren't sure about the "make". Is a "Dolphin" and/or "South Bend" reel a good reel? Am enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelop. Please answer soon. **A. Micko, L.I. City**

Rather than suggest specific brand names it would be more profitable to list some of the qualities of a good reel and then let the angler measure these against his own personal tastes.

1. Drag should be smooth. Start quickly and evenly. Teflon washers are found in many good drag systems.

2. Metal should be corrosion resistant.

3. Bail should be strong and not bend easily.

4. Drab adjustment knob should change setting slowly.

5. Retrieve ratio should be at least 3:1
Dr. Wm. A. Muller

EDITORIAL

On Thursday, March 25, 1976, we received several urgent phone calls regarding a proposed salt water fishing license bill which, we were told, was to have been voted upon this week. We immediately investigated and here is what we were able to uncover.

A Bill (A-9400) was submitted by Rowland C. Kidder and Glen Harris. Both represent upstate communities. The Bill called for a fee of $6.25 and the money was **not** exclusively ear-marked for The Division of Marine and Coastal Resources.

We pursued the matter to Albany via the help of the Stony Brook office of Region I of the D.E.C. We determined that the Bill would not be voted upon ". . . because it was technically defective . . ." and even if it were not the chances of passage were poor.

Later in the day our publisher, Mr. Reina, called Assemblyman Kidder directly. Mr. Kidder, who was very cooperative and understanding, was able to correct some misinformed aspects of the rumors for us and in return we were able to point out several unfortunate aspects of his proposed legislation to him and the result was that Mr. Kidder promised Mr. Reina that he would withdraw the Bill.

Without intending the following remarks to be critical toward or aimed at Mr. Kidder or Mr. Harris, we must protest about the manner in which the proposed legislation was able to reach the point it did without public awareness. A salt water fishing license is a very sensitive and important issue and there should have been considerable exposure of the Bill well in advance of its discussion in the legislature. Yet, although the D.E.C. was aware of the Bill we were not informed. Why?

Furthermore, when we did finally discover the existance of the Bill, we had some difficulty gathering information about it.

Fishermen, party and charter skippers and all concerned beware of such back door legislation that might just slip by before we even know of its existance.

It is absurd to introduce a Bill about the creation of a salt water fishing license without input from marine anglers. The development of such a piece of legislation would require the compilation and analysis of a great deal of information and opinions.

Before continuing, let me make it perfectly clear that The Long Island Fisherman is neither accepting nor rejecting the idea of a salt water fishing license. We are against this particular Bill and the manner in which it was being considered in the legislature without exposure of the ideas of the Bill before the people, particularly Long Island marine anglers.

If it can be demonstrated that there is a need for a salt water fishing license, then perhaps it's time we began to think about forming a committee in cooperation with the D.E.C. and our local legislators. If such a license and the fees garnished from it will help solve some of the myriad marine problems that we face on Long Island, then we would open mindedly consider its merits. However, the law that creates such a license must be formulated in such a way that it benefits **all** concerned, especially our marine organisms and the marine ecology of Long Island. The Law would and should also benefit marine anglers. We need many things to improve the quality of marine angling., such as research to learn more about our coastal marine fishes so that we can maintain their numbers at maximum sustained levels. We also need better enforcement of existing laws.

In order for a meaningful piece of legislation to be formulated the legislators will need opinions and information from diverse sources. We think that a committee should be formed toward that end. The committee should consist of the sponsors of the legislation, a representative of the D.E.C. Division of Marine and Coastal Resources, legal counsel, skiff fishermen, party boat captains and customers, surfcasters, and bank and pier fishermen. In addition, all parties should remember that any Bill must provide that **all** funds collected from the sale of licenses must go to the D.E.C. Division of Marine and Coastal Resources for the purposes outlined above. That is to say, Long Island fishermen do not wish to pay a fee that will go toward the maintenance of deer herds, shellfish, commercial fishing, or duck flocks. We want our money to go for Long Island marine ecology.

We offer any talents that we may have to facilitate both the formation of the committee and its functioning and we are hopeful that our state legislators and the D.E.C. will move in this direction shortly.

William A. Muller

FISHERIES SYMPOSIUM

by Al Ristori

The first Marine Recreational Fisheries Symposium, held in New Orleans, on Feb. 27, was a concrete example of the new cooperation between the federal government and the organizing marine sportfishery. The Symposium was arranged with government funds and sponsored jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service, International Game Fish Association (IGFA), National Coalition for Marine Conservation, and Sport Fishing Institute. Attendance was far beyond expectations and the meeting room proved to be far too small.

The morning sessions were unusual and focused on the economic and social impacts of marine recreational fisheries. Some interesting statistics were presented by Dr. Ronald M. North, of the University of Georgia. He found that the number of salt water anglers is increasing at a much more rapid rate than that of the population in general, but the catch per angler is steadily decreasing. Even more disturbing is his observation that the average size of the fish being caught is also decreasing.

The luncheon speaker was Dr. Robert M. White, Administrator of NOAA. Dr. White recounted the brief history of NOAA and the importance that sport fisheries are assuming within the agency. It is surprining that the sportfisheries have been able to achieve influence in NOAA, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Com merce. It was just a few years ago that a reorganization took marine sportfisheries out of the Interior Department combined it with a program for commercial fisheries in the National Marine Fisheries Service, and made it part of NOAA.

Sportfishing groups fought the change on the assumption that, with Commerc's bias toward business, the commercial fisheries would get all the attention in the new framework. Fortunately, it's worked out a lot better than we anticipated as National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) personnel have bent over backwards to work with sportfishing organizations. Of course we feel they could still do more, but it's only fair to give them credit for moving in the right direction.

Dr. White made special mention of a proposal for a $670,000 study of the economics of marine recreational fisheries. There hasn't been any authoritative study of the economic aspects of the marine sportfishery so far and it's most important that this information be developed. We suspect that there's actually greater economic value in the sportfishery than in the commercial fisheries, and if that's the case, government will have to consider the fisheries in an entirely different light!

One breakthrough involves the adoption of the concept of optimum yield in fisheries plans. The traditional concept, based upon commercial considerations, is "maximum sustained yield" which calls for harvesting as much as possible, up to the point where sufficient spawning stock is still left to produce an equivalent harvest the next year. This results in a population of generally small fish and significantly reduces angling opportunities. On the other hand, optimum yield takes into account the angler's need for a larger population and one which includes trophy specimens. To the average angler this may seem like so much "mumbo jumbo", but it will actually make a world of difference in the way the fisheries are controlled—especially now that the 200 mile limit is upon us. A great deal of credit should go to Dick Stroud, Executive Vice President of the Sport Fishing Institute, for moving the National Marine Fisheries Service toward this concept.

The afternoon sessions concentrated on the management of marine recreational fisheries. It appears that regional management councils will have a great deal of leeway in deciding just how the fisheries beyond three miles are to be allocated and will be charged with the responsibility of keeping them viable. This will represent a 100% change from the current situation, in which there is virtually no regulation of the fisheries beyond three miles. We'll finally have the opportunity to save our fisheries and it is vital that the sportsmen unite to see to it that a conservation ethic is observed in the councils.

The House and Senate proposals for manning the councils were at varience but it now appears as if the compromise will result in each state appointing a "fish and game" type, with the other state representatives being selected from a list of five submitted by each governor in the region. While it doesn't appear as if we'll succeed in our attempt to mandate appointment of sportfishing representatives, the language of the bill will probably direct the Secretary of Commerce to balance the selections so that all interest groups are fairly represented.

The importance of prompt action was emphasized by Dr. John V. Merriner, associate marine scientist, Virginia Institute of Marine Science. He emphasized that fishery management is still an inexact science and that early action to preserve a fishery should be taken, even if there are just danger signs and the figures aren't definite. In other words, we must end the "crises approach" to fishery management that has been the only kind of management we've had so far in the marine fisheries.

It's unfortunate that this attitude didn't prevail years ago. For many years Frank Mather, of the Woods Hold Oceanographic Institute, was warning of the danger signs approaching bluefin tuna, but even after he had gathered the figures documenting the species' decline it still took a long time before any action was taken. Last summer anglers chafed at the restrictions, but their value was illustrated by the sudden abundance of 20-30 lb. tuna in the Mud Hold area, a result of getting the seiners to "lay off" first year tuna in 1974. The long term problem of the bluefin tuna is still not solved, but, thanks to Frank Mather, at least we're doing something about it now. To honor Fank's efforts in this field, a testimonial dinner was held the night before the symposium. That well deserved tribute was sponsored by IGFA, SFI and the National Coalition, and chaired by one of the country's most prominent fisherman, Nat Reed, Undersecretary of the Interior.

The proceedings of the symposium were interesting and I could fill these pages with them. However, the real significance of this meeting was the exhibition of government interest in the sportfisheries and the realization of the importance of marine recreational fishing, both from the economic and sociological viewpoints. Very shortly the conference committee will have its legislation ready for the President. Though there is still a question about the enforcement date (the President wants July 1, 1977; Congress wants Jan. 1, 1977; and the compromise will probably fall in March or April), the regional management councils will be set up as soon as the bill is signed. For better or worse, the government will be inextricably involved in the fisheries after that date. For the first time, salt water anglers got off their butts and worked for the 200 mile limit. Now that the opportunity to control and preserve the fisheries is within our grasp, it is vital that we see to it that government involvement is for the best!

Sinker Bouncing

RECORD KEEPING

with Matt Ahern

In several of my articles, I've mentioned that I keep records of all my fishing trips. And every time I do, a few angler buddies request the finer details on how to go about it.

The one thing I've noticed when discussing the merits of record keeping with these sinker bouncers is that not one has ever stated that such an undertaking is a pastime fit for foolish fishermen. All seem convinced that keeping fishing records is sure to pay off, and the sooner they start, the better off they'll be.

How right they are.

For interested fishermen, this article tells how my records are kept, but let me say at the onset that only by faithfully and accurately recording your fishing trips can you guarantee more fish in your bucket.

Record keeping is nothing new. Experts have been doing it for years—and keeping it a secret. If you doubt this, ask the cracker-jack striper fisherman.

The ones I know admit they do keep records. Unless you know one of these gentlemen extremely well, he probably won't let you see them (I've never been able to convince one to do so), but I'm sure these expert fishermen will agree with me: no aid puts more fish on the beach, or in the boat, than the intelligent use of accurately kept fishing records.

My records go back to the late twenties and as you can imagine, fishing just about every day as I do, I've filled several books.

Actually, I began my sinker bouncing a little before that time, but it wasn't until several years later that I got the idea to keep some sort of log. I knew I was going to do a lot of fishing in my life and it was common sense to want to keep tabs on the results.

If I ever feel in the need of a bit of nostalgia, all I do is trot out those early records, written in the long-ago when I was knee-high to the proverbial grasshopper. Their kid-like observations and deductions, coupled with poor grammar and incomplete sentences, stick out like a sore thumb. But that is besides the point. Few of us have the potential of a Hemingway or Jack London. It matters not. What matters is that these early records helped me catch more fish.

How valuable are these records to a dedicated fisherman? Well—even today, nearly fifty years later, I still refer to them. Fish don't change their habits. When I plan a trip to a familar spot, and something doesn't quite ring a bell, I'm likely to dig out those records for some quick checking. They still work. They still put fish in my bucket. That's how valuable they are.

This doesn't mean it will take fifty years for your records to become of value to you. Your first entry can be of immediate help, even the following week should you plan fishing the same area. After you have one completed year entered, you're on your way. Truly, for the fisherman who wants to see his catch increase, record keeping is "worth its weight in gold."

Elaborate record keeping books aren't necessary. All mine are ordinary school composition books, available anywhere for less than a buck. The paper is good and holds up well after much heavy handed pawing over the years, which is something to take into consideration. Some fishermen I know use specially printed sheets which they keep in loose leaf folders. I'll tell you about them later.

Get in the habit of recording everything of interest. And everything you believe is odd or unusual. My records contain the following happenings: the time I caught the one-eyed flounder; the occasional left-handed flounder and right-handed fluke; the fluke with the light green back; the completely all black fluke; the two ling on one hook, the cod with the rubber boot heel in its stomach; the ling whose innards held a lady's dinner ring, minus the stone; and the hacklehead with a slice of pickle in its mouth.

These particular notations won't help you catch more fish, but they make for interesting reading on cold winter evenings, and they are sure to stir pleasant memories. And who knows, you might want to show proof to a Doubting Thomas.

But what will help you catch more fish are accurate entries. Be serious about your record keeping. Don't kid. Especially, don't kid yourself. If you caught but ten flounder at such and such a place and you feel you shoud have done better, don't indulge in the pit-fall of satisfying your own ego and state you caught twenty.

You may believe you'll remember when you hedged on the truth, but you won't. Remember, there's a reason why you caught ten flounder and not twenty. Keeping your records truthful and accurate will eventually tell you why ten flounder were caught instead of those make-believe twenty. Should you get into this habit, you will defeat your purpose.

It's very important that you enter weather conditions; wind direction too. Tide activity should be noted; also be sure to enter on what part of the tide the fish bit best. The approximate weight of the fish should be entered, the largest scale weighed if possible.

Outside of making a notation when the water is abnormally cold or warm, I've never bothered to take water temperature. This is usually in the realm of the striper fisherman and the fresh water angler. You can do so, of course. I'm sure you'll find some interesting observations which may indeed help you.

To aid you in starting, I've purposely selected a fluke entry from one of my record books, one which I believe will cover what I'm trying to convey. It's much longer than average, but because it serves the purpose so well, I've used it. It isn't necessary to make yours as long, unless, like this one, there is good reason for it. I'll give an example of an average length later.

"July 13, 1958...Sunday

Alone to Island Park for fluke. Fished Schaeffer's Creek off Tom and Larry's Fishing Station. Took twelve. Ten were fair and two good-sized.

Fish would not go for the usual drifted or jigged bait, and two small fluke were the only ones to fall for an experimenting dead line. No sea robins.

Slow fishing reported all week, but after some experimenting, I found that anchoring and casting toward the station and retrieving the bait very slowly got the fish into a feeding mood. Fish wanted only small live killies—nothing else worked.

One of the larger fish followed the bait at least four feet off bottom before striking. Hit very hard. Another had a two inch fluke in its stomach.

The day started with showers and fish didn't bite until rain stopped. Fish needed a lot of encouragement before taking the bait deep enough to set the hook. I could feel the slight drag as each fish held the bait. Then by slowly counting to ten, I was assured a hook-up nearly every time.

All fish were taken on out-going tide, which seems best in this place.

Fish—Fluke...1½ to three pounds.12.

Weather—Northeast wind, changing to east on high water. Partial clearing on low water."

As can be seen, on tap was a wealth of information that could be used to my advantage should I decide to make a return trip to the same general area. You'll have to agree that with that information, I would have to do little experimenting and would save precious time should the fish again put on the finicky act. If they did, I'd know just what tactics to use.

But, you say, as the fisherman, you would surely remember how the fish reacted that day, so what's all the flack about writing everything down? Well—I'm sure you would recall the method used to get the fish biting, but would you remember the exact day? It's doubtful, unless by coincident, the day had an extra-special meaning all its own, like a birthday, for instance. No, don't rely on your memory. Put it all down in black and white.

The exact date is important, because on that particular day the fish had some reason for acting as they did. It's quite possible the same conditions responsible for the fish's unorthodox behavior in that particular place may exist each year about the same time, or perhaps, too, in whatever place you may be fishing when you find special methods become necessary to succeed. And don't forget, wind direction and tide play an important part. Put it down!

Incidentally, let me say that for the next three days after that trip, I did follow-up my advantage and caught fish with the same method when no one else was doing well at it. On one of those days, I took nineteen good-sized fluke, with a five pounder the largest. It was the only method that worked!

When I returned the next weekend, primed to commit mayhem on the fluke population, the fish had returned to accepting the usual drifted and jigged baits. I caught but one fluke with the method that produced so well for me only days before. Why? Who knows. Maybe some day we'll find out, but in the meantime, better make up your mind to keep a record book.

Below is an example of the shorter entry that is found throughout most of my record books. As can be seen, these entries take but minutes to record.

"July 8, 1963...Monday

On the Survivor II out of Island Park. Fishing turned sour after several days of good fishing. Heavy rain all morning. Rough seas. Took three ling and one sea bass off the Stone Barge. Tried off Long Beach for fluke. None. Made a drift in Jones Inlet. Took one average-sized fluke here. Stopped at buoy 20 in Reynold's Channel on way in and took two more fluke.

Fish—Fluke...1½ to 3½ pounds—3.
Ling...2 pounds—3.
Sea bass...1 pound—1.

Weather—Heavy ground swells. Rain on strong east winds."

This entry also contains much information. Reference is made to each individual fishing area, the amount of fish taken from each place, and the weather conditions prevailing—which on this particular day was bad, and was probably the reason for the poor fishing.

Notice the word "probably". No fishermen can make a positive statement when dealing with nature and its forces. My records bear me out. For instance, On September 15, 1963, again aboard the Survivor II, we fished the Iberia wreck off Long Beach. We were forced to cut the day short because of strong easterly winds. But this time, the porgies, seabass, blackfish, plus an occasional blue came flying over the rail for the fishermen able to stand up and fish.

Why? Once again, who knows. But for the fisherman deeply interested in Mother Nature and her finny creatures, keeping accurate records of his ventures may some day give him the answer.

Many fishermen don't care to keep their records in prose form and some I know have dreamed up a speedy method to save them time and still get in all the essentials. Here's one I've copied and it works well for them:

"1. Number, weight and kinds of fish caught.
2. Water condition.
3. Atmospheric conditions.
4. Tackle and name of lure, if any. Bait.
5. Name of fishing ground.
6. Weather."

This method isn't fluid enough for my taste, and there isn't room for the many notations that often count when making future trips, but the fishermen using them seem satisfied, and that's what counts. The choice is yours.

Don't waste time getting started. Do it now! Get yourself a composition book, or something similar, hunt up that pen you put away when Adam was a boy, and develop a style of your own. As the entries increase, you'll often wonder how you ever managed without them.

One last word: Don't rely on memory. Write everything down as soon as possible. If you don't, you will surely forget the finer points.

When you keep records, you're ahead of the game—you won't wind up guessing as many anglers do. Believe me, guessing produces few fish.

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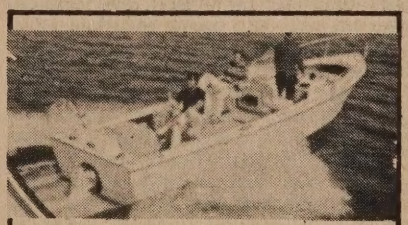

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THE BOTTOM LINE

FLOUNDER FISHING Part III

with Scott Simons

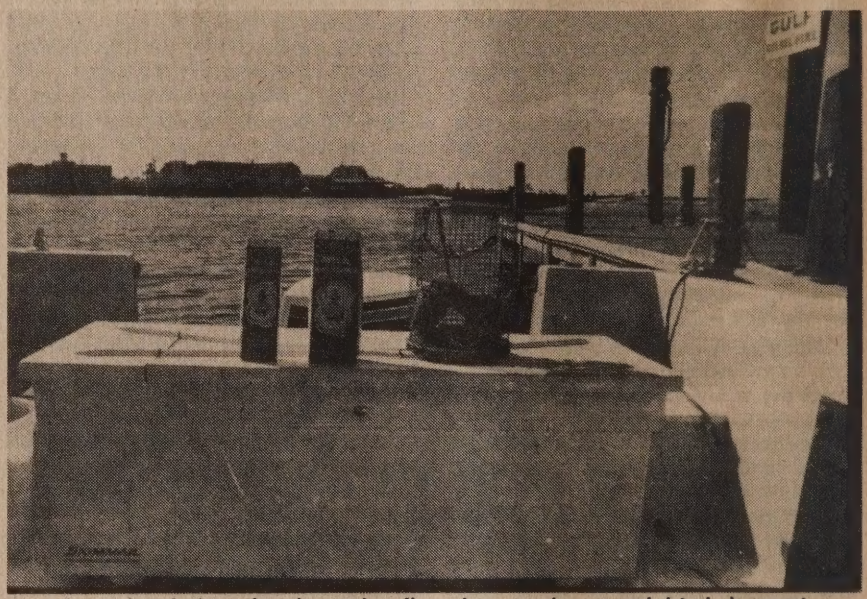
This week we're going to wrap up the annual flounder articles by covering the all-important chumming techniques that should be used. I say "all important" because that's exactly what chumming is—the most critical technique the flounder fisherman has at his disposal to insure consistently good catches.

To understand why this use of chum is so important, it is necessary to understand the general feeding habits of the flounder, which are not predators. Predatory fish such as the weakfish, striped bass and bluefish will often travel together in schools as they pursue their prey of smaller baitfish. So all the angler has to do is find a school of baitfish with predators feeding on it and he's in business—the fish have already gathered themselves together into schools and all you have to do is find them.

Not so with the flounder, which is a foraging fish constantly on the move looking for little tidbits and morsals of food lying on the bottom. While it is true you will catch flounder without the aid of chum, the fish will usually be caught in spurts—these are foraging flounder on the move that have accidentally "stumbled" onto your bait. The foraging flounder is on the move and doing two things—one is looking for any movement that may possibly mean a free meal. This is why bouncing a brightly colored sinker on the bottom a few times to raise small clouds of mud will often attract a curious flounder to the bait. The flounder is also keeping his nose facing up-current, constantly on guard for any scent of food that may be carried to them with the moving water—and this is where the importance of chumming lies.

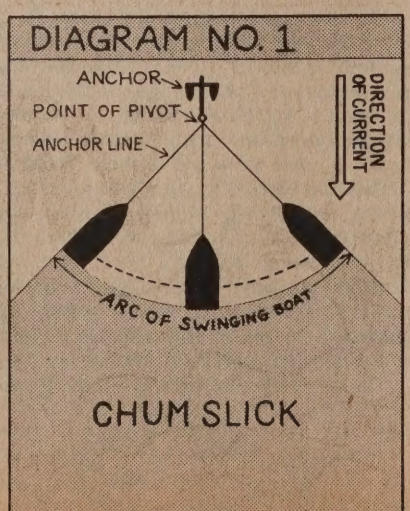
The flounder will usually be spread out over a large expanse of one of the types of bottom compositions or formations they prefer to inhabit: mud that is silky to the touch and contains baby clams or the shrimp-like tiny amphipods that compose a large part of the flounder's diet; large or small beds of black mussels and the food supply; this habitat attracts deep holes just about anywhere that may act as a catch-basin for the silky mud sediment; flats that hold an abundance of clams, piggy-back snails, worms etc.; and the channels that run through the bays, which are a natural highway for the foraging flounder.

Once you have located one of these prime areas with a population of flounder, the next step is to "gather the fish up" in quantity around your boat. The best way to accomplish with is by chumming which is feeding TINY tidbits of food and succulent juices into the moving current, which will carry it to the foraging fish. When the flounder pick up this scent, they will swim up-current to follow it to it's source—which is your boat with baited hooks underneath.



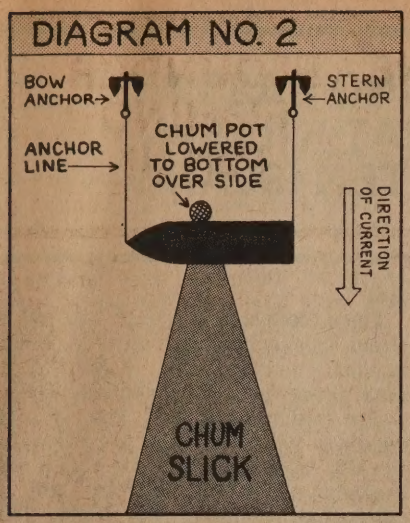
A good technique for chumming flounders employs a weighted chumpot and blocks of chum frozen in waxed milk cartons. The weighted chumpot acts as a double-anchor to prevent the boat from swinging, and the chum is fed into the current in a slow, steady slick as it defrosts.

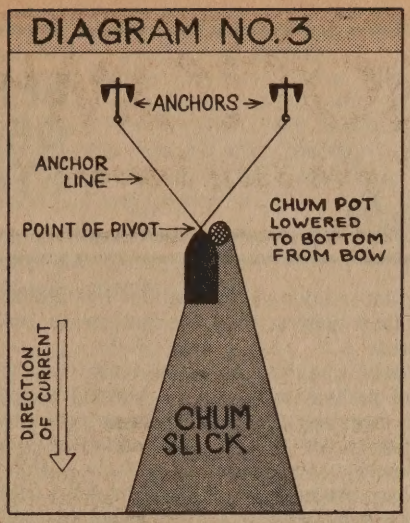
There are four ways to chum wrong: 1. chumming too heavily; 2. chumming to lightly, 3. spreading the chum around the boat rather than containing it in a chumpot, and 4. chumming from a boat that is swinging in a wide arc while at anchor. The first two sins are ovsious—if you chum too heavily you may feed the fish too much and they won't have any interest in eating by the time they find your bait. The opposite is true of under-chumming—you may not be giving the flounder enough inspiration to leave the spot he's at.

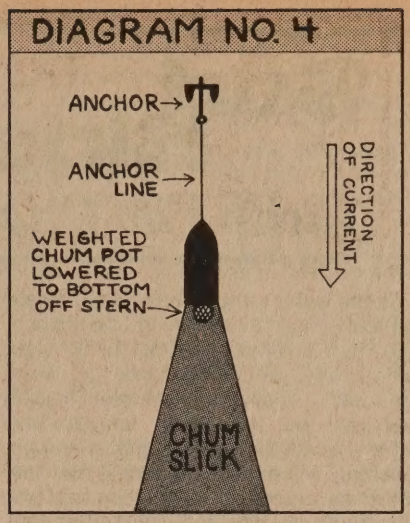


Spreading chum freely around the boat can actually have an adverse effect on flounder fishing. The moving current will eventually carry the chum away from the boat, attracting the flounder to a spot too far behind the boat to do you any good. For this reason, chum should always be contained in a chumpot. The chumpot should be weighted so it will lie on the bottom close to the boat where the chum will be most effective. It's also an excellent idea to position the chumpot UP-CURRENT of your baited lines for two important reasons. First, you don't have to worry about snagging the lines attached to the chumpot or the pot itself with your rig. And more importantly, you want the flounder swimming up-current in the chum slick to come across your baited hooks before they reach the chumpot chock full of goodies. Flounder will swim right up to a chumpot and start sucking out the goodies through the mesh—so why would they bother swimming another five or ten feet to eat that ¼ inch long (you cheap S.O.B.), washed-out piece of worm? The trick is to get them to eat your bait before they reach the hors d'oeuvres.

The method of anchoring is also critical to the successful chumming of flounder. If you were to simply anchor







the boat with a length of anchor line, the effect of the chum will be greatly diluted because the chum slick will be going out in a very wide cone. This occurs from the back and forth swinging of the boat in a wide arc, as shown in diagram #1. The anchor acts as a pivot that the boat will swing on at the end of the long anchor line. The chum pot will also be swinging in the same arc, covering a wide area, which will tend to give out at a very thin chum slick over a wide expanse that will not be enough to entice the flounder. The fish will also experience trouble finding your little pieces of bait. You want that chum feeding out into the cureent from one stationary source, creating a chum slick shaped like a narrow cone, with your baited hooks at the narrow neck of the funnel. To accomplish this goal you must double anchor with one of the following methods.

Diagram #2 shows the broadside method of double-anchoring that fellow staff member Doc Muller recommends. It is far-and-away the best—particularly if there are several anglers fishing froma a small boat and room is at a premium, because it allows you to fish from the long side rather than the narrower beam of the boat. First drop the bow anchor, followed by a stern anchor. When both have "set", adjust the lengths of the anchor lines until the boat is broadside to the current as shown in the diagram. the chumpot is lowered to the bottom on a line off the portside of the boat, so that it is under the boat and up-current of your baited lines.

Diagram #3 is the favorite method of the large private and open boats that would have considerable difficulty holding anchor broadside to the wind. Two anchors are set at approximately a 45 degree angle—the boat can still swing, but the pivot point is where the two anchor lines are tied to the boat, so the vessel can only swing slightly within its own length.

The third method of anchoring is the one I prefer, which is shown in diagram #4. In order to do it, you must have a heavily weighted, LARGE chumpot that can act as a second anchor. I have a large pot that I've poured molten lead into the bottom—it weighs between 15 and 50 pounds, depending on how many times you've pulled it up. I just lower it over the stern and keep it on a short line so it stays close to the boat and up-current of my baited rig. The one drawback is you are limited to fishing off the stern, which is impractical on a narrow beamed boat for more than two or three anglers.

What do you use for chum? The two prime choices are mussels and clam bellies. Fill the pot about half way with mussels (bank or black), cracking each slightly with a billy club as they are placed in the pot. Periodically pull the put up and crunch 'em up a little more. But don't over do it—remember, you just want the juices and TINY tidbits of food to escape from the pot in a slow, steady stream. After most of the juices have washed out of the yellow meat, empty the pot and replace with fresh cracked mussels.

The chum I prefer to use is frozen clam bellies, the same as used in clam chumming for bass. I buy a large can, defrost it, and refreeze them in one quart wax milk cartons. Then I cut off the carton and place the entire frozen block of clam chum in the pot. As it slowly defrosts in the current, it is like a time capsule, slowly feeding tiny pieces of clam and succulent (smelly) juices into the current in a steady stream. Try it.

As far as the bait department goes, common sense tells us that you should

(**Continued on page 32**)

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Surf Side with Vito Orlando

SPRING BASS AT GREAT KILLS — STATEN ISLAND

As the water temperature rises, aided by the thawing sun of spring, the striped bass have a natural instinct to become more active. Unlike humans, the bass are "cold" blooded creatures. Hence they rely on the water temperature rather than a calendar to signal a change of season. When the temperature of the water surrounding them reaches 45 degrees F, the call goes out to end the long winter of dormancy.

Beginning in the upper reaches of the Hudson River, these fish soon find their way into the New York City area. By the second week of April these fish have spread out, finding locations where the pickings are easy. Great Kills Park in Staten Island is one such location.

Located approximately six miles south of the Verranzano Bridge, Great Kills Park offers the angler a first opportunity to score with these newly arrived bass. The waters adjoining the park contain a variety of edibles, which these migrating fish crave. The soft muddy sand holds an abundant variety of bait. Keep in mind that these bass are not as active as they will be in a few weeks when the waters are warmer. At this time of year the bass prefer to feed at or near the bottom, rather than chasing bait fish. For this reason the preferred bait at Great Kills is the sandworm. These worms are in great abundance throughout the Staten Island waters, thus are natural to the area.

The regulars at Great Kills have a unique way of fishing the worm. Instead of stringing the worm from an ordinary bait holder hook, it is threaded onto a machine wound hook. The latter differs from the ordinary snelled hook in that the monofilament leader is wound onto the hook shank. The ordinary hook contains a knot, which will make it impossible to completely thread the worm. A smooth snell is needed in order to slide the head of the worm onto the leader. This technique once mastered is very easy. The point of the hook should be inserted into the mouth of the worm. Thread the worm up, over the winding (usually red) and onto the leader. Keep inching the bait along the bend, until it is completely threaded. When finished, the point of the hook should protrude from the extreme end of the tail.

This method should be used together with a fish finder rig. In this way the bait will appear more natural, as it is carried around in the mild current. The use of a cork should be avoided. A cork will take the bait too far off the bottom, and that is where these spring bass will be feeding. You will not be pestered by many crabs here, so don't worry about losing your bait.

Since there is only a slight current at Great Kills, a maximum of three ounces of lead should be used. A pyramid or bank sinker will perform equally well.

The majority of bass that will be caught at this time of year are schoolies. For this reason I like to use a nine foot medium action rod together with a compatible spinning reel (Penn 710, Crack, Shakespear), loaded with twelve pound test monofilament. On this type of an outfit these spring bass offer a good account of themselves. To use anything lighter will but undue pressure on both rod and reel, as you are fishing bottom and not plugging. Heavier tackle will take away from the sport.

Another interesting fact about this area is that these fish will often feed close to shore. Long casts are not necessary and the maximum distance of your bait from the wash is about 100 feet. Don't overcast, for this is one area in which you must be on target to score consistently.

At Great Kills there are a few other necessities that one must have. A sand spike is invaluable, that is unless you desire to hold your rod for a few hours. Waders are not needed, for there is no surf to speak of, and wading is not required. A foul weather top is a necessity since the spring weather can be very unpredictable. If you own one, a thermos filled with a hot liquid should be carried. You will be fishing a few miles from the nearest coffee shop.

To get to Great Kills, follow Hyland Boulevard south. You will notice a sign on your left reading "Great Kills Park". This sign is located a short distance from Nathans. Once at the park, follow the paved road until you come upon a small house that lies at the entrance to a parking lot. (There is no fee until after Memorial day). Drive through the lot to the extreme south side. You will then notice a dirt road which should be on your left. Follow this road toward the yacht club. Once on this road, Great Kills Harbor will appear on your right. To your left will be the ocean. Upon coming to the entrance of the yacht club, make a left turn into the small parking lot. Do not attempt to go into this club, it is private property. Once in the parking lot you can park your car facing the consession. If a space is not available, you will find adequate room on top of the dirt hill that lies to your right. There will

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be a small access road that leads to this area.

After dressing and unloading your equipment, walk toward the water. There will be a flag pole which stands behind you. Attempt to line yourself up with this pole. This is a productive area. You should be able to see Roma Shoals, and the tip of Fort Hancock that lies off the edge of Sandy Hook. If this area is too crowded walk north (left) for about four hundred feet. The area from this spot to the concession is also productive. It is in this area that there are two small channels or cuts in the sand bar. These cuts afford the bass an easy access way to and from the beach. You will do better to arrive at low water so that you can survey the situation. These cuts will be easier to locate at this stage of the tide.

Daytime seems to outproduce night-time. Although I have taken my share of these bass during the dark hours, I have had better results during daylight.

The best tide for this area is four hours before high water, until three hours after. The tide must be moving, and there should be sufficient water to cover the sand bars, thus premitting the bass to swim through the narrow passage ways that line the beach.

The purchasing of bait is no problem. Santos Sport Shop, which is located on Hyland Blvd, must be passed on your way to the fishing grounds. Two dozen worms will be more than enough, and will last for a full day of fishing.

If you have any children, Great Kills offers an excellent opportunity to introduce them to striped bass fishing. I am sure that they will enjoy themselves, and the results can be very rewarding. Good luck and good fishing.

ART OF BUCKTAILING
(Continued from page 15.)

and some night fishing, plugs will become useless from a boat. This was the first fall season where I never did see a good showing of bass on top. This is why I am convinced the bucktail has a bigger future than ever. When used properly the bucktail will take fish from below. Even if they do show, for every fish that jumps there are a hell of a lot more below. Plus if the traffic is light, and keeping the fish down, the bucktail will go on working.

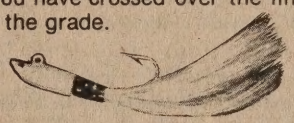
To give an example of bucktail power, let me recall one night's fishing this fall. Myself and a friend, made a night trip. I used my favorite stick with bucktails and he used a spinning outfit and plugs. We found the fish thick in one spot and pulled steady for 2 hours. At the end we had 60 bass of which he took 15. The fish were on top this night. We could hear them busting off the side of the boat in the dark. Even with the fish "on top", the bucktail caught more.

One more item before I wrap it up. For all of those wise guys who believe that bucktails catch only the small ones, or "wash bass", I say bull. Biggest fish caught casting on my boat this season was 44 pounds. At one point at the end of the season I had made 5 consecutive trips where the largest fish was a 40 pounder. All this stands as a testimony to the power of bucktails. The number one striped bass lure.

The use of it is an art and can only be acquired after years of practice. Casting, retrieving and getting the "feel" is a private ballet you perform for your own pleasure.

Ballet is like casting for bass. It takes a basic talent or simply good coordination, strong desire, and plenty of practice. That unexplainable talent separates the sharpies from the average.

Suddenly one day you give a good performance and the rewards are great. For the dancer it is applause. To the fisherman it's a box full of bass and the sweet glory that goes with it when reaching the dock. Eventually, with continued success, boats will begin to follow you around. Then you will know that you have crossed over the line and made the grade.



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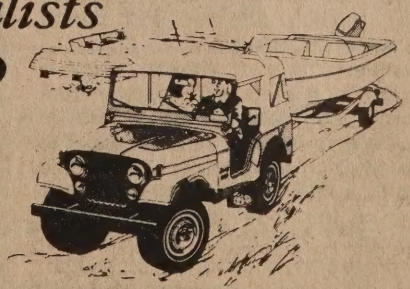

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PECONIC BAY FLOUNDER

PART TWO: EAST SIDE OF ROBIN'S ISLAND & JESSUP'S NECK

by Dr. William A. Muller

It sometimes seems that the further east you go, the bigger the flounders get.

There is no question that the water gets deeper and deeper to the east and there are places around Jessup's Neck and Shelter Island where the depths are as great as 90 feet.

The big sea flounders sometimes appear reluctant to move out of these deep muddy bottoms, and local fishermen head directly for spots such as Nassau Point and Jessup's Neck.

O.K., so you don't want to play around with two pound flounders—you want snowshoes! Good for you, I admire your convictions. Of course, you do realize that you are still likely to end up with 1½ to 2½ pound fish simply because the smaller fish are more abundant. Thus, the deep water fishing is likely to be less productive in terms of numbers and more productive in terms of quality.

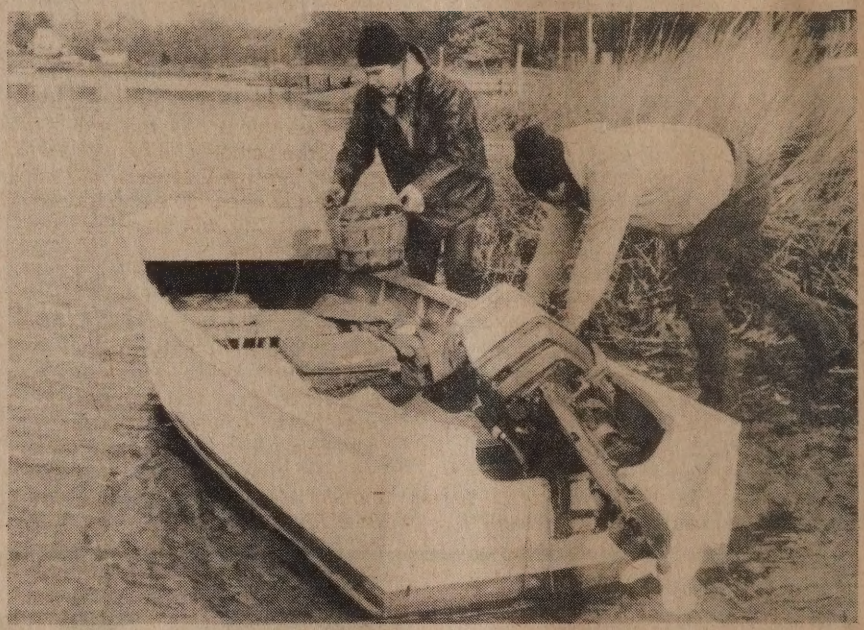
Where to Fish:

The big flounders move around quite a bit at Nassau Point. Sometimes good fishing is available on the west side of Nassau Point, near the black buoy, and the incoming tide is best. However, when the fishing is poor, the boats will spread out south of the red buoy at the southern end of the point.

The fishermen will move from spot to spot frequently until they land on a body of fish. Then, they will chum heavily with mussels. If the winds are light, some anglers will drift until a fish is caught and then anchor and chum. In general, the fishing is most productive during incoming tide and poor during slack water periods.

South-southeast of Nassau Point is Rose Grove. A sand ledge extends from the south shore out into the middle of Little Peconic Bay for about a mile. The water drops off sharply just north of this ledge to a mud bottom. The flounders gather on this mud bottom below the ledge and once again, the fishermen must move often until he locates the fish.

One of the most consistent spots for big flounder is found on the west side of Jessup's Neck, near the second fish trap. Anchor about 500 feet off the second trap and chum heavily. A depth recorder will help you to find the depressions in the bottom here, which is the best place to fish. Move frequently, every 15 minutes or so, varying your distance off this second trap by about 50-100 feet in and off the beach and north and south, if you do not have a depth recorder.



A bushel of fresh bank mussels is a must for a successful day.

A two-hook tandem rig tied immediately above the sinker is favored in East End waters.

Once you locate the fish, keep the chum pot loaded with fresh crushed mussels and work the fish until the tide turns. Incoming tide is best.

Just one mile northeast of Jessup's Neck is the western shore of Shelter Island. Here a creek, Crab Creek, empties into Shelter Island Sound. Excellent floundering occurs in early April and lasts until the end of the month at the mouth of this creek.

All of these areas can be reached during reasonable weather from either New Suffolk or Southold. Captain Marty's Fishing Station in New Suffolk boasts roomy aluminum skiffs of 16 to 18 feet, that can take a good spring chop. Phil Loria and his dad can direct you to the best fishing in the Robin's Island area, Nassau Point, Rose Grove and Jessup's Neck. They know where the fish have taken up residence and have an abundant supply of fresh local mussels.

The Liebleins at Port of Egypt are equally expert and they are familiar with their territory. They have maps of the entire area including Shelter Island and Greenport. Each morning they assess the best fishing and will mark off a half-dozen of the best spots on the map and give directions how to get there.

These modern liveries are well equipped and they are more interested in satisfied customers than they are in just renting boats and motors. Therefore, if you call ahead for reservations, they will not hesitate to tell you that you're better off staying home if the fishing is poor. If they tell you that the fishing is good, you can count on it being so.

If you prefer to fish from a party boat, there are several excellent boats available. The Captain Clark boats from Shinnecock Canal will anchor anywhere from Jamesport to Shelter Island in search of the best flounder fishing.

Other "head boats" leave from either Claudio's or Mitchel's docks in Greenport. There are also a number of charter boats that welcome spring fishing charters and reservations can be made by calling White's Tackle Shop in Greenport.

If you plan to fish a charter, bring your own fresh muscles and chum pots—if you have them. It is the practice of some of the Captains to steam the mussels so that they are easier to shuck. The fresh bivalve, however, is much more productive than steamed or frozen bait. I would suggest that you ask whether or not the captain uses fresh muscles and chum pots when you make the reservation.

The weather in March and April is very unpredictable and be certain that a weather forecast that calls for temperatures in the upper 50's and low 60's for New York City will translate into the upper 30's and 40's on the east-end waters. The water is still quite cold in early spring and you are surrounded by it out east. The slightest wind and the temperature will take a nose-dive.

Therefore, bring long underwear, wool socks, insulated boots, wool hat, sweatshirts, gloves and rubber rain gear. Enjoy!

Captain Marty's Fishing Station (516) 734-6852.
Port of Egypt (516) 765-2445
Party Boats: Captain Clark (516) 728-1709 or 728-2506.
Greenport Party and Charter Boats: Brand X 477-0008.
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Next week Part III—East Side of Shelter Island and Gardiner's Bay.

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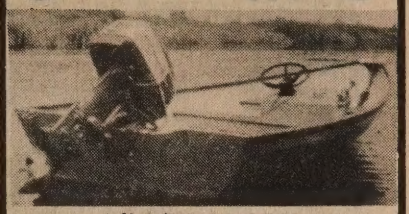
Yellow Fever At
PORT OF EGYPT **Port of Egypt** PORT OF EGYPT



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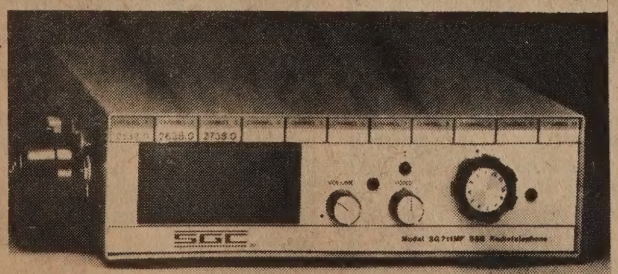

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The Art of Bucktail Casting

Part One

When first asked to do an article on bucktail fishing I said no—to give away years of hard won secrets seemed too absurd. My attitude changed for two reasons. Since I am now in the charterboat business, writing these articles will hopefully come home in dollars and cents. The other reason is, I do not believe reading this alone will make a better fisherman out of you. Only years of experience and practice can do that. the fisherman who has almost completed the puzzle. but is still missing a few pieces, will benefit mostly.

In the past two years, since I have been keeping records, I have taken 34,000 pounds of bass, the bulk of which were taken on bucktails. Please accept this information as credentials of my authority, not as a boast.

There are only several other people I know that have mastered the art of bucktail fishing. (There must be many more). One is my old pal Bobby Maier who owns and operates Smitty's Fishing Station in Broad Channel. His ability with a casting stick is the bucktail art to perfection. Bobby is naturally left handed but has learned to handle his tackle right-handed. The result is a 5'6" wizard who can toss a lure over either shoulder with equally deadly results. Because of this ability, Bobby never has blocked space in the boat such as a cabin or antenna to cast around. We have shared many years together hawking bass on both ends of Long Island.

Another old buddy who showed me the way on most of this bass fishing is Tommy McHale. To give an example of Tom's reputation, and respect, I would like to relate a story.

Just a few years back Bobby and I were fishing together, casting and catching good. All too quickly the fish stopped dead. We seemed at a loss to pick up on the change. Bobby turned to me and said, "If Tommy were here he'd know what to do." This was Tommy. My prime mover. If they ever immortalize bass fishermen, with life-like statues, I'm sure Tommy would end up in Columbus Circle. His endurance went beyond the normal alotment. His tenacity would shame a bull dog. Before he left permanently for Florida to become one of the Fort Pierces' top king fishermen, he showed me the ranges for two spots in Jamaica Bay that he had kept secret for many years. Amazing! Like a fishing novice once said to his buddy 15 years ago on Smitty's Dock, "He catches 'em when they are not there." Good luck Cap.

The right rod and reel. My first advice is to give away your spinning outfit to a surfcaster. That is about the only place they are any good. Now get yourself a conventional rod and reel.

First the rod. The rod should match the reel in balance, and also be suitable for the size, (weight), bucktail you are using. Back in the Jamaica Bay area I started all this with a heavy tip stick 7 feet long, matched with a Penn Squidder number 145 (the 145 has a smaller spool width than the 140 and handles easier). A plastic spool will give you less over-ride, so try to use plastic instead of metal. This outfit is very good for casting lures 1 ounce and up. I still use such an outfit, but less and less. It seems as the fishing gets tougher the bass don't take the larger bucktails anymore and one ounce is the largest I seem to go these days. The reasons are simple. Heavy heads (the word head will be used in reference to the bucktail) are used primarily in deep water. The heavier the head the deeper you go. The problem is deep water is usually covered by trollers dragging wire line thru the water. For some reason when there is too much wire in the water you will find that it is difficult to catch casting. So do yourself a favor and stay away from the idiot fishing. My second casting stick is my sweetheart. Early this fall I broke off 6 inches on a stick I loved and treasured for three years and wanted to cry. To say that I caught at least 10 tons of bass with it, plus bluefish would be no exaggeration. I would rather have had an unfaithful wife.

Since then I have built more sticks to match the broken tragedy in my life. Some are made for myself, close friends and a few for sale. The rod is an 8½ foot one piece blank, with individual cork rings for butt and grip. The corks are glued in place, then sanded down to a diameter that matches my grip. Included are 5 stainless guides and a carboloy tip. When finished I have 14 ounces of performance to marvel at.

The perfect mate for this rod is the Ambassadeur 6000, which is a level line bait casting reel. Penn now makes a fair copy for less money, but it does not have the smoothness of performance as the 6000, or better yet, the 6000C. Also available are Shakespeare reels and several others that I am not familiar with. (The C. is a 6000 with bearings.)

I have been using the 6000 for over ten years and rate it as a damn good little reel. This reel, with the 8½ foot stick, I use for casting 1 ounce heads down to ¼ ounce.

Years back I never used a long stick. Only at Montauk, where at times I must lay back beyond the breakers and cast into the beach, do I need a big stick for gaining distance. Big sticks can be awkward in a boat and so don't use one unless necessary.

For line I use Ande. On the heavy outfit I use a 20 pound test. the Ambassedeur takes 15. A 10 pound test would work better giving you distance in throwing smaller lures. The 15 pound line, the bait casting reel, and the big stick, should match up perfectly for casting ½ ounce heads. (my most heavily used lure in the past couple of years.)

Remember the tip should be light but not a piece of wet linguine. This rod should have enough backbone to set the hook. With this tackle, the all important

feel will develop. The feel is a must. The following paragraph explains how.

The lure must be felt at your finger tips. To achieve this you must place the rod butt under your left arm. (Not your right, as I see some clowns do) when retrieving and have the line pass between your index finger and thumb. All the while making sure your rod is facing directly into the line. This will enable you to feel out the slack or tension in your line.

That is the whole trick, the magic. The difference between catching fish and merely wetting your line. As you now realize this is why I said the spinning outfit is not good for this style of fishing.

Another reason I don't use spin gear is I can out-distance a spin reel on casting. Easily, especially into the wind. Master your casting ability. After all, the further you throw that lure, the more area you cover. This betters your chances of finding a fish. Conventional reels also have more power and can whip a fish back to the boat in less time. They also eliminate the physical strain on wrists you usually get when spin casting.

Bucktails come in an endless variety of shape, size, and color. Eliminate all the colors and use white only. Stay away from wierd shaped heads. Keep your selections at a minimum and it will be less confusing. Most any of the popular heads will work. Bulls Head, Smilin' Bill, ball and jib, and bullet shape are the best. I prefer the bulls head and ball shape, and use these in several sizes.

I use only bucktail hairs (it really is a deer's tail in case you didn't know). Used quite widely today is nylon and other materials. These can catch good, maybe even better at times. I am partial to bucktail hairs, and not about to change.

Important things to look for when selecting your bucktail. Most bucktails are made for trollers, not casters, and consequently have a hook big enough to catch onto Moby Dick. The hooks usually will protrude out beyond the hairs and show. This I do not like! Give me "cute" lures.

One ounce, ½ ounce, 3/8 ounce and ¼ ounce are the four sizes I use the most. The subtle difference between the ½ ounce and the 3/8 ounce can positively produce more bites. Knowing when that 1/8 ounce will help is the trick.

An 1 ounce lure should have nothing larger than a 6/0 hook. The ½ ounce between 3/0 and 5/0. The 3/8 ounce a 3/0 and the ¼ ounce a 2/0. This rule of thumb applies to my fishing with 15 pound test line. Other pound test lines effect how the lure will sink or float.

Little hooks will catch big fish. Some days I have put over 100 bass in the boat from 2 to 40 pounds, never using a hook larger than a 5/0. (Always use the biggest hook you can get away with.) The bigger the head, the larger the hook can be, (within reason).

A typical catch of over 40 striped bass taken by Capt. John DeMaio, left, and Emmett Gosman of Gosman's Restaurant. The fish were all taken on bucktails in late November.

This is one of the reasons I never use the commercial Smilin' Bill lure. Their 1 ounce head has a hook about size 9/0. For myself, I have solved the problems of obtaining the right lure some years back when I began making my own. I don't advise the average fisherman to make his own because it will not pay. Unless of course you plan to use 2 or 3 hundred a season as I do.

One more thing to look for in the hook is a short shank. All too many bucktail lures have a long shank jig hook. This generally will protrude out to the end of the hairs instead of being buried deep within. A regular, or short shank, places the hook firmly into the hairs, and closer to the head. Don't shy away from bucktails that seem to be skimpy on the hairs. These lures will often outfish a lure heavily ladden with hair. The correct bucktails are available in a great many, of not all tackle stores. Look carefully before buying!

Now the most important addition to the lure, pork rind. It is easy to catch a bass on a head without any hair, and only a strip of pork rind hanging on the hook. Yet, it is almost impossible to catch a bass on any bucktail without porkrind. You must use pork rind. Use mostly white. White will always work. On occasion try red. Sometimes the red will work better. Uncle Josh is about the best on the market. It is very thin and gives a good action. Thick strips of pork rind will last longer but wriggle less. Good pork rind should wriggle just from the tide flowing past it. I have caught bass with a dead lure hanging over the side of the boat while eating a sandwich, the pork rind providing its own action. Those few occasions where I have taken fish on a bucktail without pork rind were very rare. Very rare indeed.

Here is an extremely important no-no. Never use a snap swivel. Tie the lure directly to the line. If you must use a leader because of rough bottom, or bluefish, use a piece of heavier line such as 30 pound test. Put a 2 foot length to the lure, and attach it to the line with a small barrel swivel.

Also important, is to have the tying eye of the lure coming out of the top of the head, and not the center like some trolling lures. Remember this, a good bucktail should be well balanced.

As catching striped bass becomes more difficult, due to less fish and heavier traffic, I see more need for the use of bucktails. Except for surfcasters,

(Continued on page 11.)

BASS IN THE NISSEQUOGUE RIVER

by Chuck Williams

The Nissequogue River. The very name conjures up thoughts of old time Smithtown, indians and spring trout fishing. While all of this is true it is also one of the best striped bass spots on the north shore. The river itself starts in the park on the north side of Veterans Highway as a small swampy area. It meanders thru Smithtown, right under Route 25, on past Landing Avenue, thru a small park, past the old fish hatchery and on into San Remo. Here it becomes a tidal marsh, home for clams, small flounder, lobsters, shore and marsh birds and the elusive striped bass. In this area the river has three or four beds in addition to the main stream. These flows all meet at a sharp bend known locally as Mussel Shoals and continue to flow as one body to Long Island Sound. From Mussel Shoals to the Sound is the area we are interested in. It is at this point that the river deepens to as much as twenty feet and widens to about a hundred yards. It flows past the Old Dock Road launching ramp, continues for a hundred yards or so and past the mussel flats on the left. This is the outflow from Sunken Meadow State Park. The point or East Bar is on the right. Here the river sweeps to the left then makes a slow lazy curve to the right, past the West Bar and empties into Smithtown Bay.

The river can be reached from any point on the north shore by boat. If you are a Smithtown resident you can use the old dock launching ramp for a boat or the Short Beach parking lot to park in if you are going to surf cast. If you are a Brookhaven resident you can launch a boat from Stony Brook and be at the Nissequogue River in about 25 minutes. If you are a Huntington resident you can put in at the Northport Power Plant and be fishing the river in less than half an hour. If you don't live in any of these areas and don't have a friend in one of them you are probably out of luck. Now let's run down each area of the river as to when and how to most productively produce fish with a certain amount of consistency.

MUSSEL SHOALS.

Probably the least productive spot on the river. Will only produce at night. However, it is one of the spots that will show fish on an incoming tide. Fish this spot an hour or two before high tide after dark. Sandworms in summer, clam chum in the spring or fall is best. A lot of shorts will be taken in this area. You can also use light tackle and cast an Eel-let or jointed plug. Be prepared to lose a few plugs to the bottom. If you are going to chum use only clam bellies, no bits or pieces. Anchor about 100 feet north of the shoals, chum sparingly in the conventional manner. The key to chumming this river is the word sparingly.

Don't use lead core line in this part of the river as it seems to foul on the bottom too easily. 15 pound mono, Berkley Trilene is a good choice because it is color coded every ten feet. Use a 2/0 or 3/0 baited saver hook (that's the kind with the little barbs on the shank) tied directly to the mono. A slip sinker ½ or 1 ounce completes the tackle. Twist the sinker on about 2 feet above the hook.

Bait up with two or three bellies and you're in business. Start off in free spool, strip eight or ten feet from the reel and let the current do the rest of the work. Keep a light thumb pressure on the reel spool. When the bait touches bottom, gently lift the tip of the rod and at the same time let out a few more feet of line. Always keep the bait moving is the number one rule of clam chumming. If you're the type that doesn't like to tend your line every minute you might try moving the sinker about five feet from the hook and letting the bait flutter on the bottom. This method is often productive when the current isn't moving too fast. If you are worm fishing use the same method described above.

MUSSEL FLATS.

A fairly productive spot at all stages of the tide in the dark, except last two hours of the outgoing and first two hours of the incoming. Strictly a casting spot. Eel-lets, bucktails, spoons and jointed plugs will all take fish here at various times. Anchor on the east side of the flats and cast in, or cast in from the north point shore. Again this is a fairly easy place to lose tackle.

EAST POINT OR EAST BAR.

The very best place for shore casting. A very productive spot on any outgoing tide. The bad news is if you don't have a boat you have a half hour walk in from the Short Beach parking lot, actually a small price to pay for a striped bass. The fishing starts here in early April and continues right thru November. Casting with a small eel, hammered spoons, or white and yellow bucktails will all produce fish. Cast across the river, let the current take the bait until you have a curve in the line, then make a slow retrieve. Stripers in the spring here run four to twelve pounds with an occasional twenty pounder. Even a rank amateur can bag his first striper here. A little bonus is an occasional sea run brown trout. These run 6 to 9 pounds and are usually taken close to dusk, mostly on hammered spoons. In the fall, many a bait crazy bluefish has been taken from this spot also.

SHORELINE BETWEEN THE NORTH POINT & WEST BAR.

This is the second best spot for casters and will on occasion produce more fish than the East Point. This is also the one place that a non-resident fisherman can get to by walking in from Sunken Meadow Park. A long walk, but worth it in early spring and late fall. Start at the shore of North Point and as the tide goes out move north on the beach toward the West Bar. Use the same methods of fishing the Nissequogue River from a boat.

DRIFTING WORMS.

Drifting from East Point at night on an outgoing tide is a striper killer. The usual method is a short boat rod with a conventional reel. Use a small baitsaver hook with a couple of split shot about two feet above the hook. Let out about twenty feet of mono and start your drift about twenty feet offshore from the East Point. Use the large bass sandworms if you can get them. Hook them about one half inch below the head. Two worms on a hook is twice as good as one, but if the bass are running small, you can get by with one. Continue your drift to the blinking light that marks the end of the West Bar. When you get to the West Bar, kick over the engine and return to your starting point. This time start your drift a few feet further from shore. Eventually using this method you will cover the whole river. Keep in mind that where you catch one fish you're likely to catch two fish. Also bear in mind that

sandworms aren't the only bait that can be drifted in the river. If you are not catching fish it's usually not because they are not there. There are almost always bass in the Nissequogue River. A good second choice for bait is clam bellies. Drift with clam bellies in the same manner as you would with sandworms. If you want to live dangerously, take a few shrimp tails from home. The dangerous part comes when your wife finds out, what with the price of shrimp these days. Drift them in the same manner as worms or clam bellies, especially in the late fall. At least three forty pounders fell to this method last October. Also on occasion, you will pick up a tide-running weakfish or two.

TROLLING.

Not the easiest spot to troll in but it can out produce all other methods at times, especially in early spring. The best time to troll is the last hour of the incoming and the first hour of the outgoing. If this time coincides with dawn or dusk, so much the better. A small umbrella rig works the best. Troll from the East Point to the West Bar and stay towards the middle of the river for best results. There is a lot of work involved in trolling in this particular area because the distance is limited to about two hundred yards and then you have to turn around and start all over again. Don't bother trying to troll upstream, you will find that because of the current the rig tends to rise too high.

DRIFTING AND CASTING.

A very relaxing way to fish the river. Also a very productive way, especially in spring and fall. At night start just south of the Mussel Flats and drift down the middle casting towards both shores. Cast slightly upstream, let the lure sink until you are abreast of it and start reeling slowly. If you choose to drift over the mussel flats at night use a surface plug. You have to be a little bit careful getting into the flats at night because at best you'll have only three or four feet of water at high tide. During daylight hours, early morning and late afternoon, drift closer to shore and cast to middle of the river.

CLAM CHUMMING.

The very best method. Clam chumming will take more fish per hour expended than any other method you can legally use. Accordingly, we will expend a few paragraphs on where and how. We discussed chumming briefly in the section on Mussel Shoals, but now we'll really dig into it. What you are attempting to do when chumming is have the stripers look for you instead of the other way around. The best area to chum is just off the East Point if it's dark or half way between East Point and the North Point if it is light. Try to arrive at the flood stage of the tide. You can chum at the start of the outgoing tide right thru the dead low stage. Now lets go down the elements of a successful day of clam chumming.

The Chum.

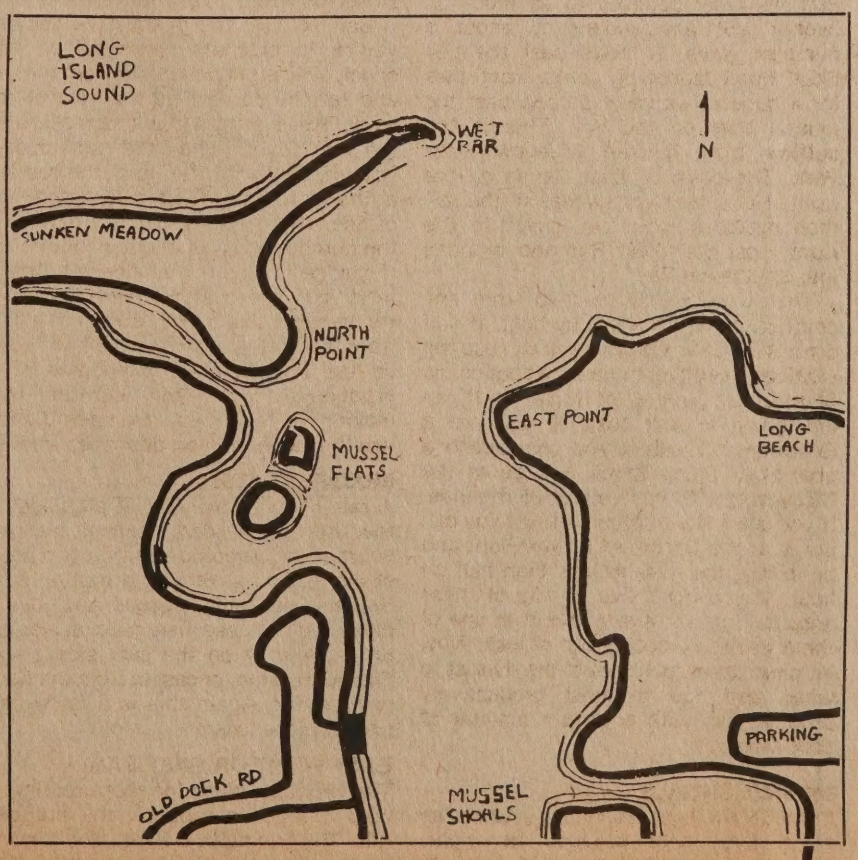
Clam bellies is the word. Bait shops sell both clam chum and clam bellies. Clam chum is bits and pieces of clam along with the bellies in the same mixture. Clam bellies are just that, clam bellies. Clam bellies outfish regular chum at least five to one in the Nissequogue River. Don't ask why, because I don't know, but they do because I've fished with both many, many times and always did better with bellies. The bellies come frozen in either 2 quart milk containers or three gallon pails. Let me tell you that nothing is more frustrating than to run out of chum. Choose accordingly, but remember you will use about two quarts every forty-five minutes if you are actively chumming.

Now for a little trick. Buy the bellies a day or two before you are going fishing and let them thaw out. Run them thru an old food grinder and into one quart milk cartons. Put a small rope in the can much like a candle wick and re-freeze. When you get ready to chum, take the block of ground up clam bellies and hang them over the side of the boat just touching the water. The water will thaw the block slowly and produce a steady slick. A more conventional method is to use a chum pot. Fill the pot with chum and lower to the bottom. Shake it once in awhile and add chum every fifteen minutes or so. A third method that works is to take some chum in your hand and squeeze it into the water. A very messy way, but some people swear by it—I'm not one of them.

The Tackle.

Use a light boat rod and a conventional reel as outlined in the section on chumming Mussel Shoals. In fact the whole method of chumming as outlined in Mussel Shoals section is the most productive way of catching fish in the river, but there is another method that works almost as well. Lead core line. Attach about five feet of twenty pound leader to the lead core line. Tie a hook, preferable a 2/0 or 3/0 bait saver to the end of the leader. Nothing else is required. With a free spool, strip off about twenty feet of line, then let the current do the rest. Keep a light thumb pressure on the line. When the bait touches bottom lift the rod tip slowly and release a few more feet of line. After your bail has been out about ten minutes with no action, reel in and start over.

Yes there are days when you will come home with no fish, but if you use these chumming methods regularly in the Nissequogue river over a season, you will take more striped bass than ten of your buddies fishing other places using other methods.



BASS & WORMS

by Ron Onorato

My first exposure to bass fishing came about many years ago when there was a prevalency of school stripers, and the way to go about catching them was with foot long sand or bloodworms. Today the story has changed quite a bit. School stripers are no longer around in any great quantities, and the art of worm fishing is nearly non existant on the Island. Despite the lack of interest in worm fishing, this remains one of the best ways to catch school stripers in the spring and early summer.

There are a number of reasons why there is such disinterest in this exacting type of bass fishing. I guess the main reason would be the lack of small bass that has been noticed on Long Island for several reasons. Equally important is the prohibitive cost of buying worms. Those nice, long worms are just no longer available at the bait shop. Instead all that's around are very expensive and quite small versions of sand and bloodworms.

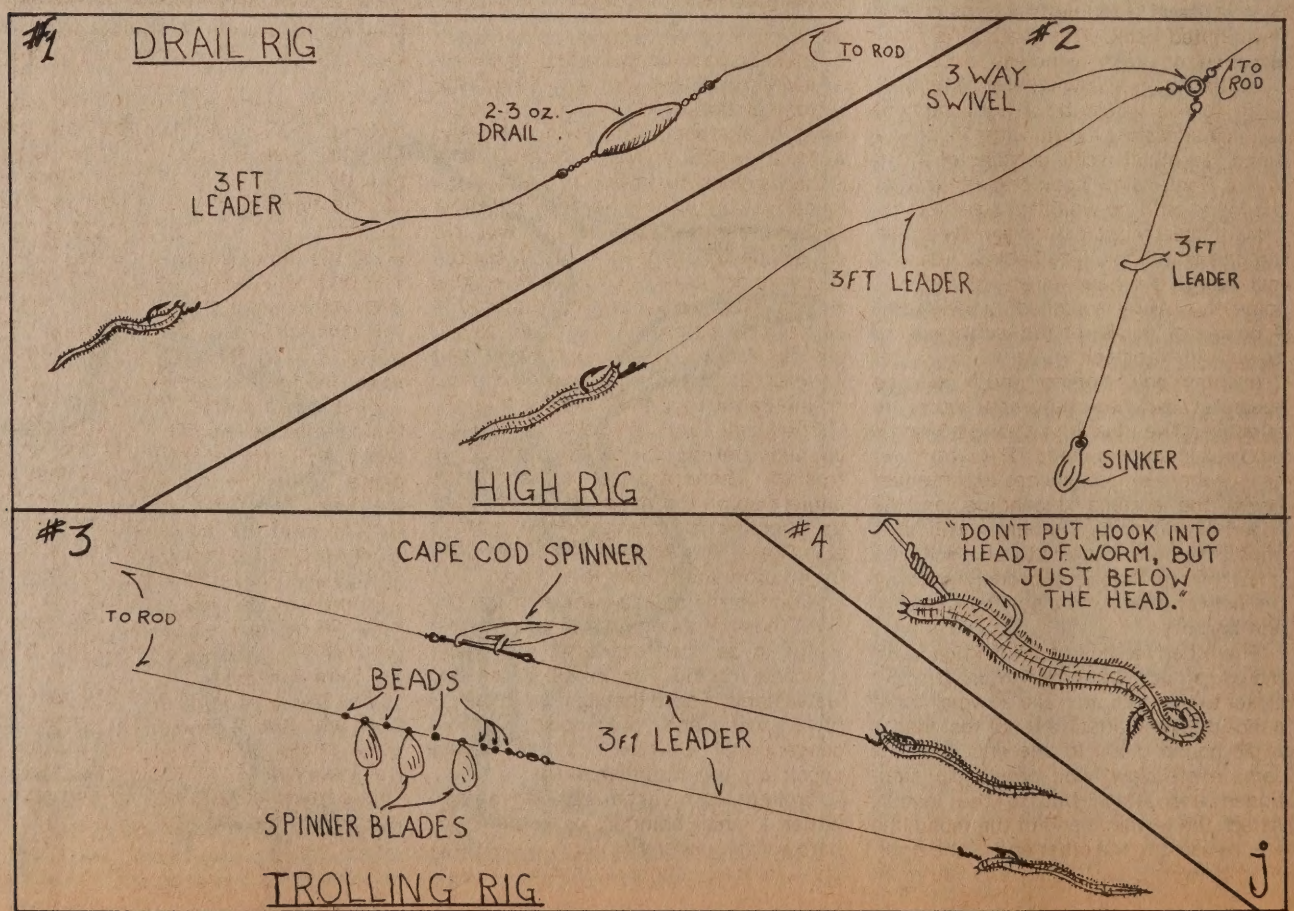
Despite these drawbacks, worming for bass is a dynamite way of getting bass when they won't hit trolled or cast lures. Bass up to the 40 pound range have been caught, though the majority of the fish are of the smaller variety.

The prime weapons in this art are the sand and bloodworms. My own personal preference is the bloodworm, mainly because of its toughness and durability. The only drawback of the sandworm is its tendency to be very brittle. They break very easily, especially when a fish hits the bait short. Not to be discounted is the tapeworm. This bait is perhaps the finest striper bait available on the coast.

If you are lucky enough to know the whereabouts of a good flat where worms live, then you're in business. On the north shore, mostly sandworms are found on the tidal flats, with a few tapeworms. The south shore flats usually have bloodworms and more tapeworms. You can become selective in the size of the baits you keep when you dig your own. Digging worms is long, hard work, but is often the only way to get the big worms needed for this fishing.

If you don't have the time or energy for worm digging, then your only recourse is the bait dealer. If I can't get out myself, I will usually go down to one of the bigger bait dealers to get the worms. I'll tell them what is needed, and for a few dollars more, they will usually let me have some of the bigger worms from the flats.

Quantities of worms needed will vary on the length of time you will be fishing. If you plan on going out for a couple of hours, three or four dozen worms may



hold you. On the other hand, a full day or night of fishing will require a whole flat (125 worms).

Blood and sandworms can be kept alive and in reasonably good shape for up to a week in the refrigerator with a little care. Bloodworms tolerate cooler temperatures than sandworms, and you should adjust the temperature accordingly. Best range for bloodworms is between 35 degrees and 45 degrees, while sandworms will do best in the 40 to 50 degree range. If you have found some tapeworms, you will have to use them no later than the following day, for they are virtually impossible to keep alive for any length of time.

Store bought worms can be kept right in the boxes they come in. Worms dug from the flats have to be worked on a bit before refrigeration. In a separate pail, you should grab a handful of brown seaweeds that often cling to the rocks and are exposed to low tide. Worms kept in these weeds will stay fresh as long as the dead and injured worms are removed. Blood and sandworms should never be mixed together.

Worms can be fished in any number of ways. They can be trolled or they can be drifted. They can be fished from an anchored boat. Each has its own methods and tackle selections.

Drifting worms is the easier of the two methods. The first type of drifting calls for the use of a couple of worms on the unweighted hook. This method is most effective on calm windless days and when fishing over a wide area. The best outfit to use would be a light-medium action baitcasting outfit with 15 pound mono. Terminal tackle consists of a 2/0 to 4/0 Eagle Claw hook tied directly to the mono with no weights or swivels.

I will usually put 2 small worms or one big one on a hook. The hook is inserted just below the head of the worm and some of the body is pushed up the shank. A couple of inches of the worm will be flowing off the hook.

In this type of fishing, you'll need an absolutely windless day, or it won't be effective. The idea is to play out line as the boat is drifting along. The worm will be anywhere from 12 inches to three feet below the surface depending on the speed of the drift. The worm will then appear to be moving naturally with the tide. This method is especially good on the flats of many of the north shore bays and harbors.

The other method of drifting calls for the use of a drail in order to get the bait closer to the bottom. Take a two or three ounce drail and attach a three foot leader of 20 pound mono to one end. Use the same eagle claw hook previously mentioned and attach this to the leader. Attach the terminal end of the mono line you're using to the other end of the drail. Add the worms to the hook and you're all set.

Once the boat starts drifting, the drail is lowered to the bottom. Once the bottom is felt, take in about a dozen turns of the reel. This will bring the worm a few feet above the bottom. This is the way they do it down at Sandy Hook in early May when the first migrants appear along the coast. These fish will be looking for food right on the bottom and are not interested in bunker spoons or umbrellas quite yet. This method is also effective right off the south shore, off The Rockaways and Lido Beach and Long Beach. Again, the less wind there is, the better conditions are for drifting.

The last, and probably the least applied method of worm fishing, is trolling. There are but a handful of anglers up on the north shore who rack up phenomonal catches in Hempstead and Oyster Bay harbors. They set up a little different than the drifter. In addition to the main power plant on the boat, these gents rig up a second electric motor to be used expressely for quiet and slow trolling. For the most part, the water depth where they troll is usually 4 or 5 feet, and the noise from a conventional outboard would surely spook any fish in the shallows.

Trolled worms can be fished with either a small spinner, or without any hardware. If water visibility is clear, stay away from the spinners; in murky water, they might pay off. A spinner will take the worm a little bit deeper than the bare rig.

A single worm is usually used when trolling. The same Eagle Claw hook used for drifting can be used. The hook is tied directly to the line in all cases. Once set up, the electric is brought into play. Let out about 100 feet of mono, and then bring the motor down to trolling speed. The boat will barely be moving ahead, and this is how it should be. The worms will just be gliding gently through the water. A drag setting just hard enough to set the hook is needed.

This is just a brief mention of an art that is underdeveloped. As with all else, doing and experimenting is the whole game. You'll find that windless days are the best. Nightime, especially around the period of the full moon is extremely good a good time to try. Late April, most of May and even June are good times for worming. In fact you can take bass any time on worms, except as the season progresses more and less expensive baits are available.

The tackle is light and any fish you hook will give a good battle, especially some of the larger fish that you might run into. This is just another facet of the whole game of bass fishing and should be kept on file and used as needed.

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NIGHT BRIDGE FOR BASS

by Joe Dans

In recent years there have been several articles written about night time striped bass bridge fishing. Each time one appeared, the number of fishermen rushing to engage in this specialized type of piscatorial endeavor grew significantly. But as time passed and the new converts found no easy pickings, their ranks thinned. A few tenacious ones learned their trade and reaped the reward.

While others can tell you how they bridge fish, each individual must develop his own style. Rather than "style" a better word might be "feel". This "feel" is developed only after you've met with repeated success. At first you'll fumble and only have sporadic luck. Eventually, consciously or unconsciously, you'll refine your technique and start scoring regularly.

Fifteen years ago I was introduced to bridge fishing by Ed (Pappy) Sens. Ed was the mentor of quite a few successful fishermen. Among them—Bob Hutton, Wally Grossman, Lou Palma, and the late Al Reinfelder. While Ed was willing to share his knowledge, he couldn't provide the "feel" that was necessary.

I recall one night in September 1960 when Ed went hunting stripers on top, pointed them out to me, told me exactly what to do and to my chagrin I met with no success. I followed his instructions religiously; but my mechanical execution was apparently self defeating. In each instance that Ed pointed out a fish on top (near surface) and I failed to nail him, Pappy Sens (after chasing a few epithets in my direction) would unobtrusively drop an eel skin rig in the water and wind up with a bass. After he did this several times, I became flustered and had very serious thoughts of using my fishing rod for kindling. By the end of the evening Ed had taken seventeen fish ranging from eight to seventeen pounds. I didn't get a single striper.

As frustrated as I was by that experience, it strengthened my resolve to keep at it until I met with success. On my thirteenth time out that year I connected with a twenty two pounder. I was so excited being into a decent sized striper that I landed him in five minutes flat. I was using 40 pound monofilament line and a stainless steel 6/0 hook that allowed me to horse the fish in. I was very lucky I didn't lose him. This performance, while disgraceful, nevertheless was the first experience that contributed to giving me a "feel" for top of the water striped bass bridge fishing.

That year was a particularly difficult one for me. To add to my misery when my wife, Lila, took a picture of me holding the bass, she centered the striper in the photo but decapitated me. Despite explanations of what a poor photographer my wife is everyone seeing the snapshot would admire the fish and then ask who the headless fisherman was.

After catching several bass, I acquired the "feel". I never had difficulty casting properly to bass again. This "feel" is analogous to getting your balance when you're first learning to ride a bicycle. Once you've acquired it, it becomes second nature.

By having the "feel" I guess I mean: **a.** Knowing where to place the lure in relation to the position of the fish; **b.** Maintaining the lure at the proper depth from the surface and **c.** Using the appropriate angle and speed of retrieve.

I'll describe these mechanics to the best of my ability; but only you, through practice and success, can develop the fluidity needed between quick analysis and smooth execution that I keep referring to as "feel".

When you spot a fish in the shadowline (either lying perfectly still or patrolling a territory) cast your lure three to five feet beyond the shadowline making sure that the lure's entry into the water is as smooth as possible. Maintain the lure at a depth 6 to 12 inches below the surface. If the tide is moving rapidly, you need just take in enough line to keep the lure at the proper depth. A slow moving tide may require a slightly faster retrieve. I've always found that too slow a retrieve works better than one that is too fast. So, if in doubt, go slow.

Never bring your line directly to the front of the fish—it is far better to bring it to his side about 1½ to 2 feet away. This allows him greater time to spot the lure (since he has broad peripheral vision) and a greater turning radius to go after the lure. Lures brought in directly to the front end of the bass move by him much too fast or in an artificial way. Casts I've made in this manner have not proved successful.

The next skill I had to develop was an ability to spot the fish on top. Many bridge fishermen find this so difficult to do that they abandon searching for fish and blind cast around the bridge supports. This method while not as productive does meet with success. Still it can't compare with searching for the bass, spoting him and then enticing him to go for your lure.

To help me in spotting bass on top at night I jerry-rigged a hat that had blinders (i.e. flaps that extended three inches beyond the sides of my face) in order to block out any peripheral light. This make-shift aid allowed me to run the full length of the bridge stalking stripers.

An ability to see the fish you're going after really turns on the adrenalin—particularly if it is in the forty or fifty pound class. Seeing a fish is not synonymous with catching one. Not all large fish hooked from a bridge are landed. By my own experience, 50% of all fish over 40 pounds are lost; mainly due to their ability to break the line by rubbing it against the bridge supports in their struggle for freedom.

The largest bridge bass I've taken to date fell for my lure on October 11th, 1967. While searching for fish on top (in the shadow-line cast by the bridge lights), I spotted one that seemed too large to believe. He appeared to be about five feet in length. I got so excited that my first cast almost hit the fish on the head. Fortunately, he didn't spook. My next cast was an overcorrection and I put the lure ten feet in front of the fish. The third attempt was right on target. The fish turned in the shadow-line and grabbed the lure.

Since I hooked the fish on the front side of the bridge (i.e. with the current flowing into the bridge) I couldn't give him much line lest he break it on one of the bridge supports. After 15 minutes of fighting the lunker, I was almost totally spent. Thoughts crossed my mind of quitting, giving him his head and letting him break off. Al Ferreira, my regular fishing buddy, shouted words of encouragement. He could see the fish flailing on top, shaking his head and slapping his tail against the water. After another five minutes of the struggle, I started

getting sick to my stomach and my arms began to get numb. I muttered to Al that I couldn't hold on any longer and I was going to let the fish have his head. He said something about my not having the guts or stamina to deserve a fish of that size. With that I decided I'd die before I let the fish win the struggle. For the next ten minutes I was sure that my demise was imminent. Gasping for breath, ashen in complexion, and drenched in perspiration, I finally beat the monster bass out. It took me another 10 minutes to guide him around the bridge pilings and down toward shore. He weighed in at 53 pounds and turned out to be the largest surf caught bass in the New York State section of the Schaefer Contest that year.

In succeeding years, Al and I caught our share of large fish. In 1969, I again caught the largest striper in the New York State section of the Schaefer Contest. But that fish was not the largest one I tied into that year. Arriving at the bridge at 12 o'clock (midnight) with the tide one hour out, Al and I began to fish the north side of the bridge.

After awhile, I told Al that I was going to head to the south side and fish the front of the bridge. He nodded and said, "Yell if you tie into anyting". When I got to the other side, I saw four torpedoes not more than five feet apart in the shadow-line. Each seemed larger than the next. I cast my home made lure (a plastic tail impaled on a jig head) to the fish furthest to the left. He immediately hit the artificial and just kept going under the bridge. Despite a tight drag and thumb pressure on the spool, I was unable to stop the fish from peeling off all the line he wanted. With only a few feet of line left on the spool, I knew I was in serious trouble. The fish was still going and despite the fact that I had a heavy rod, I could not turn him and regain any line. A renewed surge from the fish and my rod, with no line left on the reel, began banging against the side of the bridge. Rather than lose the rod, I cut the line. I immediately put on a new spool of line and another lure and worked my way up the bridge bay where I had spotted the four fish. I saw that one of them was still there. His nose was right on the shadow-line waiting to surprise unsuspecting bait fish. On my second cast I tied into this monster. I was determined he wouldn't go anywhere—but he had different ideas. As he started under the bridge, I started yelling as loud as I could for Al. Endless shouts and minutes later, after the fish had broken the line, Al showed up. He took one look at me and thought I was having a heart attack. I assured him that I wasn't and proceeded to relate my two lousy tussles. I know both these fish were larger than the 53 pounder I'd caught two years earlier.

More recently, on successive nights last October, I caught a 48 pounder and a 40 pounder. I spotted both fish and got them to take my lure. The current was running so fast under the bridge when I caught the 48 pounder that after I beat him out I couldn't get him around the bridge supports and lead him down to shore. Al ran to his car and got a flying gaff which consists of a treble shark hook with a weight and a guide that can be attached to the line on the fishing pole and allowed to slide down to the fish. Holding on to the nylon rope that is attached to the treble hook, Al felt for the fish and then drove one of the barbs home. It took the two of us to haul the fish up on the sidewalk. A passing motorist, who saw us heave the brute over the railing, brought his car to a screeching halt and exclaimed, "My god look at the size of that thing!" He disappeared and half an hour later he was back and Al and I had a new fishing partner. He fished the rest of the tide and caught nothing, while Al and I picked up another half dozen fish ranging from 12 pounds to 28 pounds. We never saw this new fisherman again after that night. When he didn't succeed on his first attempt, he quit. He wasn't tenacious enough to develop the "feel" that is necessary to score.

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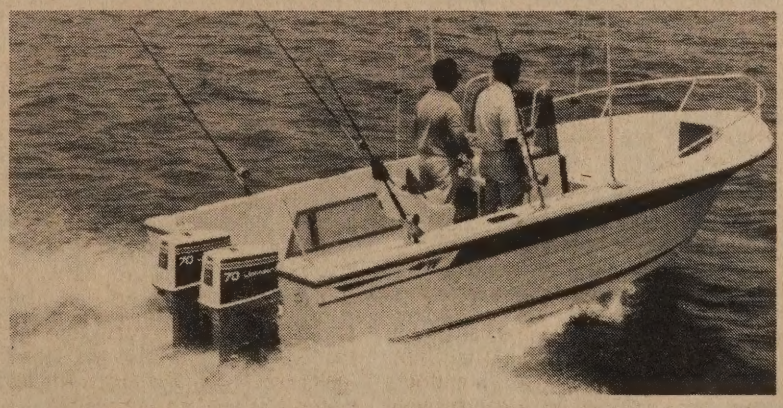

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Spring Bass

by Jack Conroy

Soon after April 1 schoolie bass start moving into the harbors and bays of Long Island Sound. They'll take to the shallow water without making their presence known, for at that time of year they rarely chase baitfish. No, this isn't the time to grab your flyrod, for the spring bass that I catch have an abundance of gravel along with the remains of crabs and other bottom dwellers in their gullets. It is this preference for feeding on the bottom that makes them so hard to find in the spring.

Initially, these fish range from shorts on up to six or seven pounds, but as the season progresses into May and June, you'll find an occasional "teenie" or low twenty mixed in with them.

My success in catching these early bass is due mainly to a spinner-worm combination of the home-brew variety that I use. This spinner has produced more fish for me in the springtime than any other jig, lure, plug, or bait I've used. It even outfishes the plain old unadulterated worm. This is not surprising, for bass are known to strike at offerings for reasons other than hunger. Such seems to be the case with this spinner, for I've felt them smack it several times before taking the hook.

To make the spinner, start with a good stainless or monel leader and connect a barrel swivel. Do a good job in wraping the wire, making sure the end lies flat. You'll find the spinner a handy thing to grab when boating or beaching a fish, but if the end of the wire is not tucked in nicely, it will cause some painful cuts in your hand.

Next, slide on two or three beads. The beads I use are about 5/16-inch in diameter and can be found at the costume jewelry counter of most department stores. The best colors tend to be in the browns and reds; however, there have been days where an all white (pearl) lure was the top favorite. Two years ago a friend of mine outfished me with a yellow one, so don't be afraid to experiment.

Now slide on a small bead and the first spinner. If the necklace you're butchering doesn't have any small beads (about 1/8-inch diameter), you can get them at your local tackle shop. In fact, most places sell small spinners for fresh water bass which will give you the spinner blades and small beads needed for this one. The small beads are important for they act like spacers or bearings, allowing the spinner blades to spin without interference.

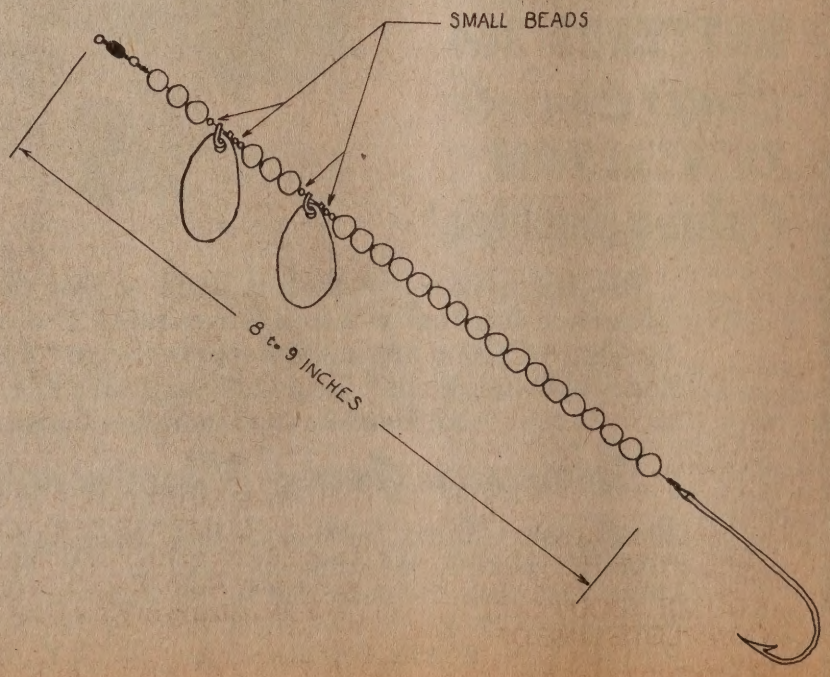
Continue stringing the beads as shown in the sketch until the thing is about eight or nine inches long, then connect a 6/0 or 7/0 hook. When connecting the hook don't tighten up on the leader too much; the beads should be free to slide a good ½-inch either way. This also helps to keep the spinner blades free.

I've heard comments that this hook seems to be too large, but bear in mind that it must be large enough to hold one or two sandworms. Also, you will be catching a good number of shorts (bass measuring less than 16" from the nose to the fork of the tail). Shorts must, by law, be returned to the water. the use of a large hook results in lip-caught fish which stand a better chance of survival when thrown back than a fish that has swallowed the hook.

Now that you have the right equipment, pick up a dozen or so sandworms (the bigger the better) and head for the back of your favorite bay or harbor. My method for locating the fish is to troll very slowly close to the grassy areas along the shoreline. Trolling along rock jetties is another good bet. I rarely find myself more than 50 feet offshore, for I try to fish in about 5 to 15 feet of water. If there are any submerged rocks in the area I get as close as I dare.

I generally start by letting out about 100 ft. of line and then adjust from there: remember, the fish are close to the bottom, so that's where you want to be. The most active feeding time I've found has been around high slack water, so I concentrate my efforts at this time only.

Above all, troll slowly and quietly. Cover a particular area thoroughly before giving up and going somewhere else. Once you locate the fish, you'll find you can go back to the same spot tide after tide and find good bass fishing.



SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Lester Behan of the **Peconic Queen III** reported that he really loaded up on fish Friday southeast of Block Island on a wreck. He returned to the same area on Saturday with 95 people—it was very good fishing for the first couple of hours and then died, so they took a shot at Coxe's Ledge which also wasn't very productive. On Sunday they returned to the Block Island wreck and hit a bonanza—55 people took over 1200 cod ranging from 10 to 20 pounds. Low man on the boat had 9 cod. Mr. and Mrs. Stevens and friend Rich Hahn took 42 cod between them. Marshall Berger took the pool with a 32 pound cod and won $160. He also had 12 other fish. Lester told us that this has been the best codfishing in a long time. He is also thinking of making a special 3-day wreck trip in June with pulling into Nantucket to spend one of the nights. Watch his ad for further details.

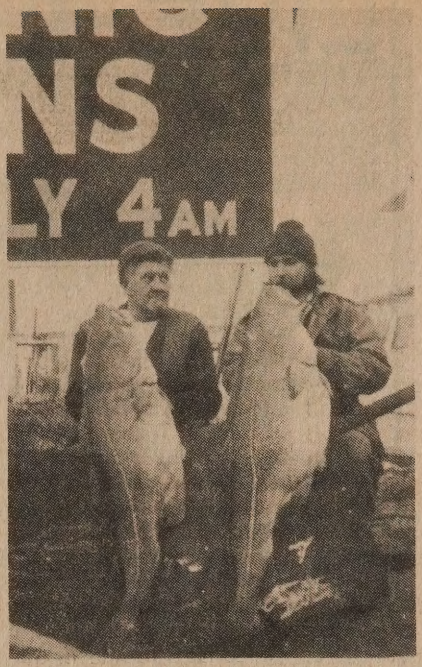
Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** told us that fishing was good all week except on Saturday and then picked up again on Sunday. Average fish i 8 to 12 pounds with the pool fish around 30.

Captain Bud Dorman of the **Viking Skipper II** called to tell us that they will start this season by sailing on Wednesday, April 7th at 6 A.M. Daily and 5 A.M. on Saturday and Sunday for cod, pollack and blackfish.

Captain Dick Vigilant of the **Triton II** reported excellent fishing on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. On Friday they fished Block Island and 7 men took 80 cod of mixed sizes. On Saturday they fished on the south side of the point and took 150 blackfish and cod for 8 men. On Sunday 2 men loaded up on cod, blacks and loads of small pollack at Cartwright. Dick told us that he still has a few open weekdays for spring fishing.

Captain Brad Glas of the **Helen II** told us that fishing has been picking up at Montauk. On Sunday he fished the Block Island area and loaded up on cod, small pollack and big bull-dog blackfish up to 12 pounds. Brad told us he still has a few open dates in May for large group charters that want to do some spring fishing.

We regret to inform our readers that Teddy Hegner, 64, has passed away recently of a heart attack. Teddy and hs



Shown here is Bob Ruland with his 59¾ lb. cod and Jack Steminger with his 58 lb. cod. Both fish were caught aboard the "Peconic Queen III"

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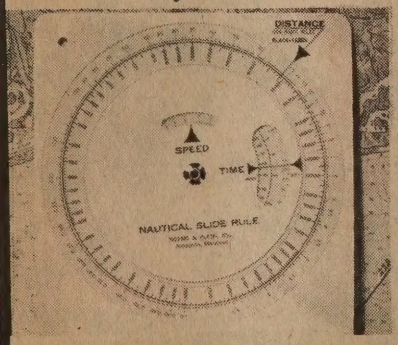

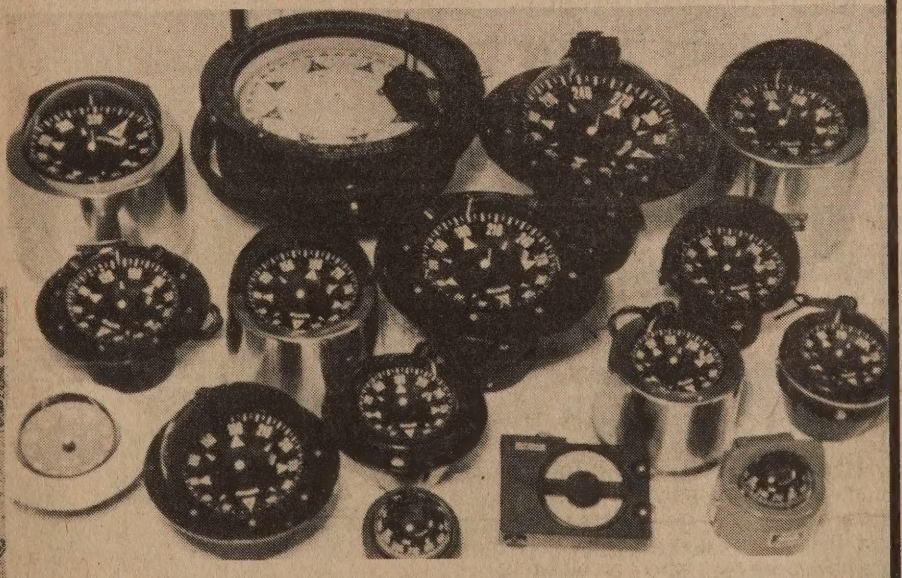

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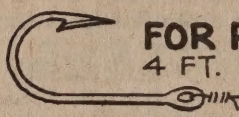
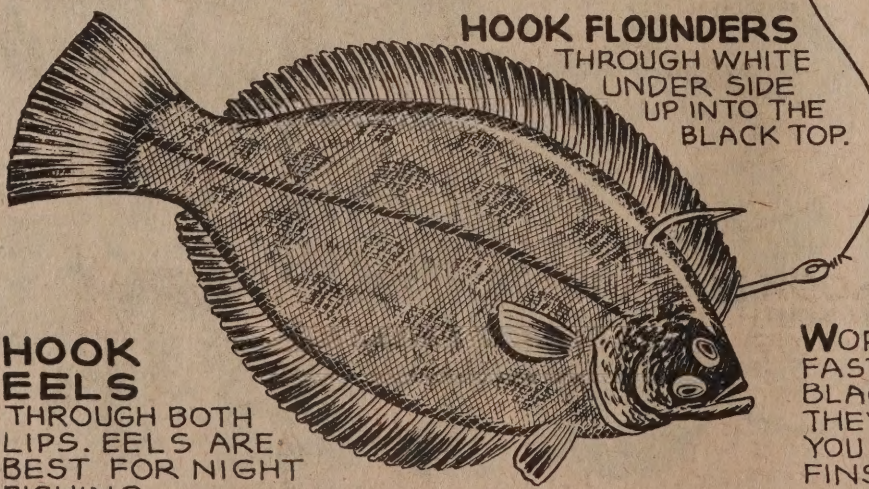


FOR ROCKY BOTTOMS & REEFS
4 FT. 20-25 LB. TEST LEADER - EASIER TO BREAK WHEN SNAGGED

4-0 SHORT SHANK TUNA HOOK

HOOK FLOUNDERS THROUGH WHITE UNDER SIDE UP INTO THE BLACK TOP.



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HOOK EELS THROUGH BOTH LIPS. EELS ARE BEST FOR NIGHT FISHING.

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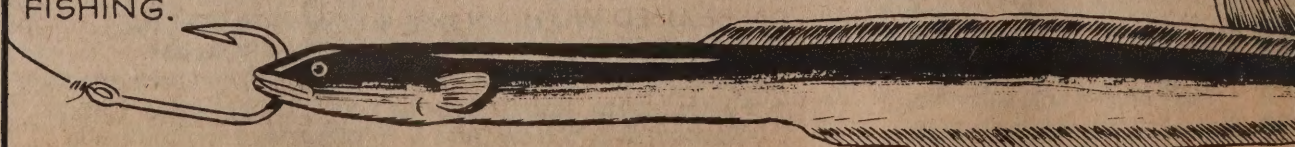

SPRING STRIPER

BY FRED GUARDINEER

PREPARED WITH THE HELP OF JOE GIALLANZO, WELL KNOWN BASS FISHERMAN AND LURE MAKER. THERE ARE OF COURSE MANY OTHER METHODS EMPLOYED BY VARIOUS SUCCESSFUL STRIPED BASS ANGLERS UP AND DOWN THE COAST, BUT THE PROCEDURES SHOWN HERE RESULTED IN JOE'S CATCH, LAST SEASON, OF 2000 LBS. OF BASS, MOSTLY IN THE 30-50 POUND CLASS.

STRIPERS ARE NOW BEING STOCKED IN FRESHWATER LAKES AND ARE THRIVING.

ANADROMOUS LIKE SALMON, BASS MIGRATE UP STREAMS AND FRESHWATER RIVERS FOR THEIR SPAWNING RUN.

FOR SPRING STRIPED BASS, AS SHOWN BELOW, JOE'S BAIT IS LIVE SMALL FLOUNDERS, BLACKFISH AND BUNKERS - WITH EELS USED MAINLY FOR FISHING AT NIGHT.

A 4-0 SHORT SHANK TUNA HOOK IS USED FOR ALL BAIT EXCEPT A *4-0 TREBLE* IS SUBSTITUTED WHEN LIVE-LINING LIVE BUNKERS.

ON SANDY BOTTOM BAYS AND CHANNELS USE 4 FT. OF 40 LB. TEST LEADER WEIGHTED WITH A 2 OZ. DRAIL AND 25 LB. MONO LINE.

FOR ROCKY BOTTOM AREAS & REEFS USE 30 LB. LEAD CORE LINE AND 20-25 LB. TEST LEADER - *NO DRAIL NEEDED.*

2 OUNCE DRAIL

25 LB. TEST MONO LINE

SMALLER BASS BITE BEST AN HOUR BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER SLACK TIDE. BIG BASS CAN BUCK THE CURRENT AND WILL BITE AT ANYTIME.

BARREL SWIVEL

30 LB. TEST LEAD CORE LINE.

NO DRAIL OR WEIGHT NEEDED

4-0 TREBLE HOOK FOR LIVE BUNKERS

HOOK BUNKERS IN MOUTH. ONE BARB THROUGH LOWER LIP AND OTHER TWO POINTS OUT THE SIDES. SAME SET UP WITH SMALLER TREBLE HOOK CAN BE USED WITH LIVE SNAPPERS FOR WEAKFISH. *LOTSA LUCK* - EVEN THE BEST STRIKE OUT MANY TIMES!

brother Captain Ed Hegner ("Captain Spider")started fishing back in the days of the old railroad dock on their boat the "Harp." He was very ill in recent years but fought back bitterly to the end. He is survived by his wife, Helen, who will continue to run their Tackle Shop on West Lake Drive and his son Raymond, who operates Hegner Realty in Montauk.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of the **Promised Land Fishing Station** said the signs are encouraging for big flounder. Three of his boats had over 30 fish each this past weekend. George Buck of New Jersey had 42. most of these fish are a pound and better, some going to 2 lbs. These fish are being taken primarily with mussels as bait and chum, some are taken on bloodworms. Best area has been Nepague Harbor on miving tide. Art said that all boats, both trailered and rental, had flounder.

HAMPTON BAYS

Tony's Fishing Station reports the flounder action is good all over the bay, with a half bushel per boat as an average catch with bloodworms and mussel chumming on any moving tide, fish from 1 to 1¼ pounds. Best seems to be buoy 12, 16 and 17.

A new fishing station in Hampton Bays, **Skipper's Fishing Station**, located directly behind Hobby Land Marine had boats out during the week and weekend and advises that Tony Agate and brother Joe of Elmont were hi-hook on Saturday with 30 flounder taken on the flood tide south of route 27A bridge when the locks were closed. Doug Deitz had fourty three fish on Saturday in the same area, averageing ¾ of a pound largest 2 pounds 2 ounces. Ted Pawelec of Est Northport had 35 fish up to 1¼ pounds . The flood was best, with heavy mussel chumming, south of the bridge. Skipper's has just put in all new 16 foot wood skiffs and new motors and is anxious to please. They also have a completely refurbished motel on the premises and are featuring fishermen's specials. See their ad for details.

Captain Clark Bellows Jr. of the **Captain Clark** called to tell us that they made their first trip of the season on Friday and did excellent with the flounder on Friday, Saturday and Sunday off Jamesport in Peconic Bay. On Sunday, 11 people took 138 flounder, 1 to 1¾ pounds. Saturday was only fair. The **Captain Clark II** still has a few open dates in April for large flounder charters.

WEST SAYVILLE

Marty at **South Bay Fishing Station** reports very good flounder fishing all week and Saturday, with 10 fish per man an average catch, with bloodworms and heavy chumming with mussels or stirring up the bottom a must. Fish are running up to 1½ pounds on all tides. Best spots appear to be southwest of buoy 30 about 100 yards on sandy bottom.

OAKBEACH

The Store informs us that Saturday's flounder fishing on the north side of The Store off the small dock ran 5 to 10 flatties per man with a decrease Sunday due to the bad winds. These are fish up to 1½ pounds and they are hitting bloodworms, clams and mussel baits. Hays says he has heard rumor of weakfish off Cedar, but nothing substantiated. Don Rourke got 30 flounder at the Sore Thumb Cove from a boat on Friday on the above mentioned dates.

EAST ISLIP

Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle reports flounder fishing remains good off East Islip Beach with bloodworm baits and mussel chum for flounders of mixed sizes.

CAPTREE

Captain Neil of **The Lady Ann** reports that Saturday and Sunday flounder catches were good, considering the terrible winds. Saturday averaged 15 to 20 flounder per man with hi-hook 30 fish. Sunday with it's 40 mph winds saw an average of 6 to 10 flounder per man, with 15 hi-hook. He's fishing east of Heckscher between buoys 18 and 30, and clams are working best. Good weather should bring about a vast improvement in the already good fishing, with fish now almost all running over one pound, with 2 pounders taking the pools. Captain Neil asked us to say that he will be sailing open every day that the boat is not chartered.

The **Captain Ben Litwin** had very good flounder fishing on Sunday in the flats off Heckscher State Park. Hi-hook was 29 flounder, with the average catch ranging from 15 to 20 fish per man. The fish are nice and chunky.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** reported that the flounder fishing was good for 2 or 3 days during the week but slowed up on the weekend. Hi-hook has been about 20 fish with an average of 8 to 10 per man. The fish are all over the bay, but not concentrated in any particular area.

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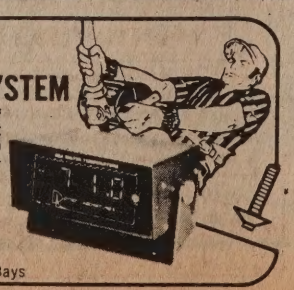

BABYLON

Augies Bait and Tackle tells us that on Saturday Art Orlandi and wife along with Tim King and wife fished west Fire Island with 3 rods resulting in 50 flounder up to 1 pound 3 ounces on bloodworm and clam. On Sunday, Howie Hodum fished Snake Hill Channel on worms and mussel chum taking 13 flounder up to 1¾ pounds chumming with mussels. Augies has also heard rumors of weakfish.

Hi-Hook Fishing Station reports that on Friday, Bill White, Willy Woody and John Nickerson nailed 41 flounder behind Grass Island using worms and mussel chum, landning nothing under 1 pound. Saturday, Pat McDonald of the Bronx, hooked 27 just off Good Sam on worm and mussel baits, chumming with corn. All of Mario's boats on Saturday had good catches, and Mario says that without wind, catches should be excellent as there are loads of fish around. Sunday produced flounder also, as evidenced Chris Vath, nailing 20 at Snake Hill Channel on bloodworms and mussel chum.

LINDENHURST

Duke's Bait and Tackle reports that Saturday, Parker Remes and "Bucko" Holley of Little Ferry New Jersey fished Shinnecock for 2 hours in their trailered tin boat resulting in 40 keepers taken on bloodworms and mussels as bait. Tony Pavone of Copaigue along with friends Tom and Joe fished from L&M Marine in East Moriches, boating 60 flatties from a half to one and a half pounds on mussel baits. It should be noted that bloodworms did not work. Another customer fished east of Heckscher on Saturday and along with two buddies got twenty flounder from ¾ of a pound to 1 pound 12 ounces on worm and mussel chum. Dock and shore anglers at Oakbeach, Cowans and Oakbeach Cove are doing very good using bloodworms and at times, sandworms.

Captain Bob Fisher of the **Lazy Day II** out of **Salty Sams Fishing Station** on Montauk Highway fished the East West Channel on Sunday for flounder, resulting in an average of 12 flounder per man running ¾ to 1¼ pounds.

Captain Jay Porter of the **Bullet**, which is nearing completion caled to say that the first nine trips are booked solid and as of now the first open date is May 16th. Jay says reaction from anglers has been fantastic and he suggests early bookings for this reason. He also asked that we announce that the boat will be available for large fishing club charters.

AMITYVILLE

Jonas Bait and Tackle tells us that there is a lot of good flounder fishing with good size fish common. According to the customers that came into his store Saturday saw catches of 30, 40, and 50 flounder per boat from ¾ to 1¼ pounds. Hot spots seem to be the Amityville Cut, the State Channel, Squaw Island and Heckscher on worm baits and mussel chum or any ground up chum on all tides, but mainly incoming. Fishing from Copaigue Beach incoming to high water is best now.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser's Bait and Tackle reports excellent flounder fishing. Lon tells us that George Daruenzo of Ozone Park caught 30 flatties from 1 to 1¾ pounds at Squaw Island on bloodworms, chumming heavily with mussels. Plenty of big fish and he bagged these all by his lonesome on Friday. Flounder fishing is very good along the Massaqepua shoreline from Florence beach to Fort Neck Point, along with Squaw Island and State Channel. Lots of fishermen came in and told Lonny of good catches of 30 to 50 per skiff, with 2 pounders not uncommon.

Charlie at **Salice Boat Basin** reports that he had boats out on Saturday and Sunday with all taking 12 to 24 fish per boat. Worms and mussel chum did the job mainly on outgoing, from Four Corners up to the third bridge and also n Zah's Bay and Squaw Island. These fish were ½ to ¾ of a pound, with lots of throwbacks besides.

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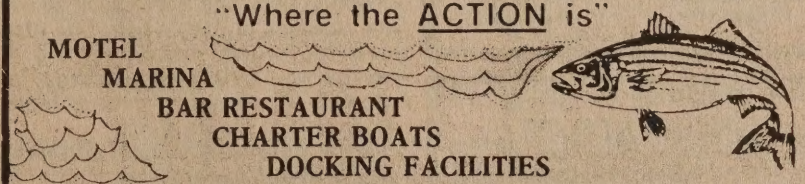

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

Anthony's Fishing Station tells of good flounder catches all week, even on Sunday, with Pete Harris and Angelo Rivituso of Lynbrook nailing 38 up to 2 pounds at the first meadowbrook bridge with worms and mussel chum, outgoing tide best. Tony advises fishing the outgoing at the drains . Weekly catches of 12 to 15 flounder per man is average with good sized fish.

The **Starstream II** had weather to cope with over the weekend, and managed to do a fair job on cod and blackfish both Saturday and Sunday, though in no great quantities, says Capt. Richie Kessinger. Nine cod up to 30 pounds and 75 blackfish were taken on Saturday and 12 cod and 70 blackfish on Sunday. Fishing was fair considering the weather. Richie fished locally, roughly one hour from the dock. Good cod fishing will become very good codfishing as soon as the weather settles down a bit.

Billy Lindroth of the **Captain Al** tells us that Sunday, hi-hook was 35 flounder and 25 was hi-hook on Saturday, fishing state channel at Wansers Cut, Gilgo and Squaw. Average catches were 15 to 20 per man ranging from a half to one and three quarter pounds on worm mussel and clam baits. The biggest fish were taking the clam baits. Outgoing was best on Sunday.

Captain Paul Schmidt of the **Aloma II** reports fantastic flounder fishing with 12 to 25 flatties per man, one to one and a half being the average. Sunday was even better with 25 to 30 being average, same size fish, hitting on worms best in State Channel, Gilgo and Bass Creek and also any area east of Zach's Bay. The **Aloma** captained by John has been doing very well on whiting and ling. Saturday saw substantial catches at the Ambrose Tower and at the BA buoy.

Mike of the **Miss Freeport** tells us that on Saturday, George Rayael of Richmond Hill had 31 flounder and the pool fish was 1¾ pounds, fishing Fundey and Long Creek with worm and clam. Sunday, Captain Johnny A made all of his drops in swift creek, bagging over 400 fish for 28 people. John is sailing 7:30 A.M. daily.

The **Captain Hall** has been putting his fares onto fish numbering in the 20's per man all week long ranging from a half to one pound mainly in the State Channel.

POINT LOOKOUT

There was very good flounder fishing in the early part of the week and on Saturday according to Marilyn Wardle of **Ed's Fishing Station**. Cinder and Swift Creeks and on the flats the fishermen were taking good quantities of flounder. The fish are hitting the usual baits of worms and mussels. Sunday's wind saw most of this good fishing blown out but the fish are there. On the weekend, Norman Lansburg took his Boston Whaler southeast of Jones Inlet to 115 feet of water. Fishing there with clam bait he took 29 cod ranging in size from five to 30 pounds.

ISLAND PARK

Captain Bill of the **Ginnie Mae** reports that flounder fishing has been fair, that the high winds sure don't help. Even so he has been putting his fares onto an average of 10 to 15 flounder per man, from a half to one pound, though many drops are necessary. Bill says once the weather settles down, catches should improve in quantity. Quality is already there.

LONG BEACH

Tom at **Long Beach Sports Marina** was impressed by the catches made from two of his boats. These flounder have been among the biggest he has ever seen in this area. One boat with Al Odsen, Sonny Rosen and Bobby Karon all of Brookly took a half bushel of these big flounders. They fished the incoming tide with worms between buoy 8 and Ducks Point. Another boat with Chris Grossorth of Ozone Park, Paul Jeffers of Island Park and Bill Wasser of the Bronx fished marker #13 to Woodmere Channel. They took 70 of these biggies at the change of the incoming tide. Along with the worm bait very heavy mussel chumming was done.

JAMAICA BAY

Good flounder action continues at the North Channel bridge said John at **Cross Bay Rod and Gun Shop**. For the boat fisherman there is good action at the Railroad tressel opposite the North Channel Bridge. Mussel chumming along with worm or mussel bait is very effective. Average size of the flounders are about ¾ of a pound with an occasional biggie of 2 pounds.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Fred at **Mike's Bait and Tackle** said the flounders have woke up for spring at the Silver Hole. Lots of nice size fish to 1¼ pounds are being caught there on moving tides. On the Jersey side the Navesink River is yielding bigger flounder up to two pounds. Whiting fishing is in an up and down state right now with a lot of ling being caught.

The **Eagle** says it's mostly catches of ling when fishing at anchor which has been necessary due to the high winds, and whiting when he was able to drift. The BA buoy area and the Jr. wreck have been producing the whiting from 2 to 3 pounds, and the ling catches have been averaging 4 pounds. Most anglers are filling a 5 gallon pail full.

The **Helen H** reports good whiting and ling action all week, mainly at Ambrose Tower and the BA buoy, with average catches of 30 fish per man, with hot shots decking upwards of 70 fish.

Captain Dom of the **Mary** says the flounder fishing has been good on good days and fair when there are high winds. Average per man on a windy day is 12 flounder and Dom is concentrating on the Silver Hole area.

The **Pilot II** is presently flounder

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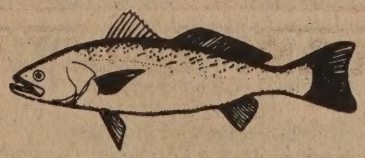

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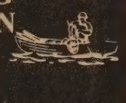

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Muller's Dock, FREEPORT
FREE COFFEE
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Small, Large, Extra Large Charters
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7:30AM DAILY Exc. Mon.
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Offshore • Bay • Canyon
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FLOUNDER FISHING

(Continued from page 9.)

use the same think you are using for chum as bait. But bein's how the fish don't have common sense, offer then a choice—the chum as bait on one hook and another choice on the second. When the fish show a preference, change to the move productive of the two.

Another method of chumming is to stir up the bottom good, which digs up tiny morsals of food and releases them into the current. The commotion of a cloud of mud in the water always seems to attract flounder for this reason. Use a plumber's helper (toilet plunger), on an extension pole, a sash weight on a line, an oar, boat hook or stickball bat or anything else that can reach the bottom and stir it up. Or you can drab your anchor around on a short line in a circle to stir up the bottom good before letting it set. Another good practice is to fish down current of a clam dredger or tonger and let them do the work for you.

That's about it on the basics. If you really want to get into some of the finer points of floundering, send for a copy of Doc Muller's new book "Fishing For Flounder" that just came off the press this week. (See ad on page 46.) One final word: flounder are a small fish, granted, but that doesn't mean you have to keep every "postage-stamp" that tries to commit suicide. Stu Miller's motto is "If you can see through it, it's too small—probably."

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

8 AM ★ DOROTHY B ★ 8 AM

PIER 6 PIER 6

FLOUNDERS

Calm Waters, No Seasickness
BAIT & TACKLE ON BOARD
Helpful, Courteous Crew
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SHEEPSHEAD BAY—Pier III 7AM Mon./Fri. 6AM Sat., Sun. & Hol.
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FULL RESTAURANT • BAIT • TACKLE AVAILABLE
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Sailing Fri., Apr. 2, 11PM, Ret. Sat., Apr. 3, 6PM
Reserve NOW—Trip Already ½ Booked!

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65' LONG—20' WIDE—FAST TWIN DIESELS—600 h.p.
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Now Booking Charters for 1976 Season. Choice Dates Still Avail.
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Fabulous—Fast—100' All Aluminum
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6AM EVERY DAY
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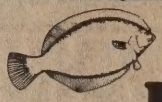

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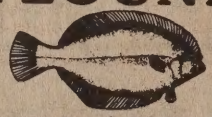

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7AM—HARRY II
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Women & Children Accommodated

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FLOUNDER 7AM DAILY

Clean Boat—Left Side of Dock

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Full Day Trip $12 PER HEAD

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NANTUCKET WRECK TRIP for GIANT COD & POLLACK
~~LEAVING MAY 7, 9PM~~
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Next Trip 5-23, 9PM
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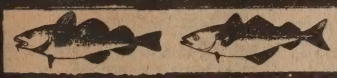
GIANT COD & POLLACK



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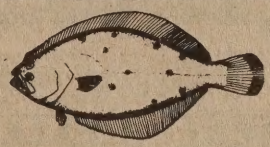

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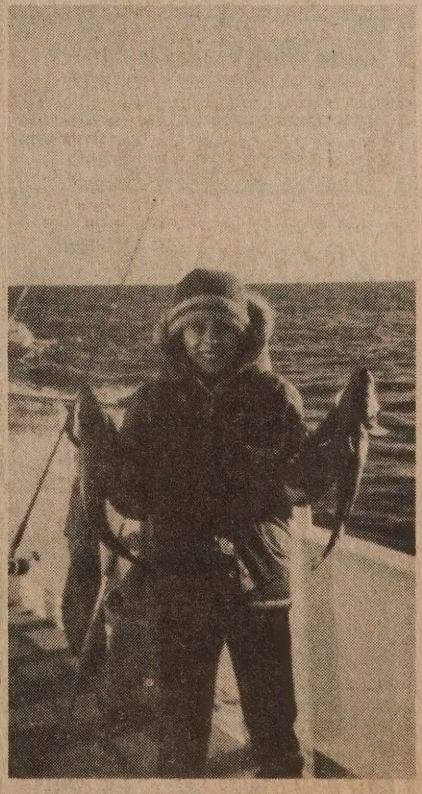
fishing the Nevasink River area in Jersey for flounder and is reportedly doing a job on the flat guys.

The **Zephyr** at this reporting is in the shipyard being scrubbed and re-painted and made A-1 and by the time you read this report, she will be sailing full tilt every day at 7 A.M. for flounder. All Aboard.

The **Amberjack IV** reports only fair whiting action on Saturday due to the wind conditions. The starboard engine is presently being overhauled in preparation for the big awaited mackerel run. The mackerel will hopefully be around in 3 weeks or so. This Friday night is a big offshore cod and pollack wreck trip. See the Amberjack ad and call pronto if interested.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** said the flounder fishing is still good. Sharpies average 2 dozen fish but the average is creeping up for the novice. The flounder average ¾ of a pound with a few going 1¼ to 2 pounds. This past week 10 to 12 stripers, mostly shorts, were picked up by the flounder fishermen. The flounder action is at the jetty and bulkhead at Great Kills Park while the striper action is there and at Glover Street.



John La Grua fishing for whiting aboard the new "Eagle" out of Sheepshead Bay did fine. Subscriber Club Photo.

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

In preparation for the first run of the season on Saturday, April 3 for the **Wilhelric**, Capt. Richie Jensen and his mate tried their luck on Thursday. They fished near the Greenport Breakwater for a couple of hours and took 25 good sized flounder between them. Capt. Jensen intends to fish east of Gardiners Island where the big fish are.

Art White's Bait Shop reports continuing good flounder action at the Greenport breakwater and off East Marion. Many nice sized fish, some to 1¼ lbs. and better are being taken on worms, mussel and clam baits.

The **Wilhelric** reports extremely good Gardiner's Bay flounder action with heavy catches of these above average size fish.

SOUTHOLD

Peter at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** said the fishing this year seems to be much better than last year. Sixteen large flounders, all over 1 lb. were caught on Saturday by Joe Rominelli. He fished at the oyster factory in East Marion. Peter says the best spots at present range from the Greenport jetty east to the windmill in East Marion. Some marina boats fished west of the South Ferry at Shelter Island. The fish there went to 1½ lbs.

NEW SUFFOLK

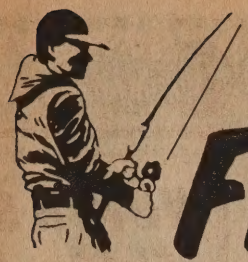
Capt. Marty's Fishing Station says the North Race is where the fish are big. On Saturday, one boat took 15 flounder to 2 lbs. using mussels, while another had 26 flounder on both mussel and worm.

JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle Center in Aquebogue reports flounder being taken in the buoy 9 area. Warren claims the water needs more warmth to produce well. Anglers do not hesitate as who is to say when the water is warm enough except the fish and you can't know that unless you fish for them.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Flounder of up to ¾ lb. are being



The Long Island FISHERMAN

SUBSCRIBER'S CLUB COUPONS

During the month of March *The Long Island Fisherman* will be printing special discount coupons for members of *The Fisherman's Subscriber Club* to use in order to save money on open boats, boat and motor rentals, fishing tackle, charter boats, marine electronics repairs and purchases, etc. In order to use any of these coupons and receive a discount, a valid *Subscriber's Club Card* as shown below must be presented with the coupon. To belong to the Subscribers Club, all you have to do is be a subscriber of *The Long Island Fisherman.* Over 20 coupons will be published in the coming weeks.

Subscribers will also receive *The Fisherman's Package* by mail in the near future. This is a 5½ by 8½ inch booklet that will contain the tide tables for the year, discount blanks for classified advertisements, blanks for submitting a photo of you and your catch for publication in The Fisherman, and L.I.F. Funny Money. Funny Money is used by subscribers to obtain discounts when ordering books and other fishing merchandise by mail order.

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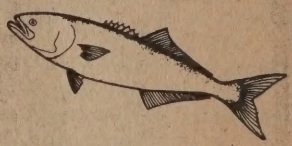
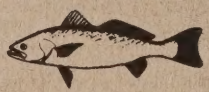


Sailing Year 'Round for Cod & Blues



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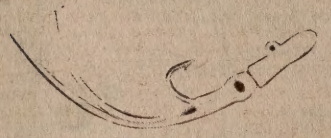

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TIDE TABLES

ON →	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
DAY	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
4/1 THURSDAY	8:41	8:52	10:17	10:30	11:58	—	—	12:15
4/2 FRIDAY	9:17	9:26	10:54	11:07	12:11	12:31	12:28	12:52
4/3 SATURDAY	9:52	10:01	11:35	11:44	12:45	1:07	1:05	1:33
4/4 SUNDAY	10:32	10:40	—	12:19	1:24	1:48	1:45	2:14
4/5 MONDAY	11:16	11:25	12:26	1:08	2:07	2:33	2:28	3:05
4/6 TUESDAY	—	12:07	1:16	2:03	2:54	3:25	3:20	3:56
4/7 WEDNESDAY	12:20	1:06	2:12	3:03	3:47	4:20	4:16	4:56
4/8 THURSDAY	1:21	2:12	3:17	4:03	4:45	5:22	5:19	5:56

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	−0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook" — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M. Minor	A.M. Major	P.M. Minor	P.M. Major
4/1	5:15	11:15	5:45	:
4/2	6:05	12:25	6:30	12:40
4/3	6:55	1:05	7:15	1:30
4/4	7:45	1:55	8:05	2:20
4/5	8:35	2:50	9:00	3:15
4/6	9:30	3:45	9:55	4:10
4/7	10:25	4:40	10:50	5:05
4/8	11:20	5:30	11:40	5:55

PHASES OF THE MOON

4-29	4-7	4-14	4-21
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

4/5	5:36	6:30
4/10	5:28	6:35
4/15	5:19	6:41
4/20	5:12	6:47
4/25	5:04	6:53
4/30	4:57	6:58

taken from both the fishing pier and in the Sound, according to **Ralph's Fishing Station**. Smaller ones have been taken in the harbor. This coming weekend Ralph's will have their boats available for rental. There has been and will continue to be both fresh worms and frozen bait for sale.

NORTHPORT

Tom at **Bowman's Sporting Goods** said the flounder are fair at the dock but better at the head of the harbor near Beach Street. Mussel or clam chumming is imperative for good catches. The striped bass are now straying away from the hot water discharge at the Lilco plant. There are a lot of 5-6 lb. bass being taken on white or yellow bucktails under 1 oz. Tom says the #1 lure all season has been the Tri-Fin Whiptail.

PORT JEFFERSON

The old bridge site in Setauket Harbor, reports **Caraftis Fishing Station**, has flounder of ½ to ¾ lb. sizes. The first two hours of the outgoing tide is best with plenty of mussel chum. The hot water discharge at the power plant has white perch big enough to eat. John Caraftis says he has boats and motors ready to go as well as fresh and frozen baits.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnie's Bait & Tackle said the flounder fishing has been fair at Duck Island and Lloyd Harbor, about 6-12 per mann. They are nice sizes of ¾ to 1¼ lbs. and a few to 2 lbs. Mussel chum with sand worms are a must. The strped bass at Crab Meadow have been very good, either from the shore or boat. Ronnie says the best lure from either shore or boat is the ¾ or 1 oz. Tri-Fin Whiptail. Sandworms work well from shore. Some boats have had as many as 20 bass with some in their teens.

GLEN COVE

Flounder are coming along great, says John at **Glen Cove Sports**. Most of the spots that produce fish during the season have flounders. Fish of ¾ lbs. are there but must be fished for.

PORT WASHINGTON

Moreland's Bait & Tackle said the flounders are all over Manhasset Bay. Good sizes and quantities are being had with sandworms.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

GROTON

The week-end got off to a flying start aboard the **Hel-Cat** when Jeff Morton of Voluntown Ct, caught the first fish of the day, a 53 pound cod. Capt. Bob Glas reports that the rest of the day's fishing south of Block Island was pretty good, with cod ranging from 5 pounds to fish in the 20 pound class; the largest blackfish caught was an 8 pounder.

April and May will be highlighted by a **Hel-Cat Special** that makes every Hel-Cat angler a winner. In addition, there will be an extra boat prize awarded weekly. The big steel catamaran, now based in Groton is presently sailing on a Saturday, Sunday, weekend and holiday schedule.

"It takes two hands to handle a whopper!" Just ask Jeff Morton, above, who took this 53 pound cod on the Hel-Cat out of Groton, Ct. recently.

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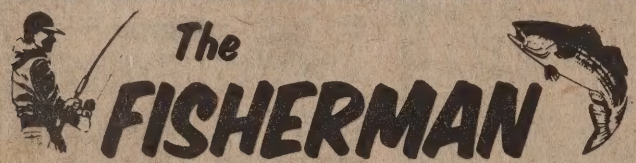

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